SATURDAY 5 APRIL 1999

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# Millions to lose money on pensions

### **EXCLUSIVE**

by Nic Cicutti, Personal Finance Editor

surers will be worth less than the amount paid in contributions, an investigation by The Independent reveals.

In many cases, the value of policyholders' funds will only be worth a fraction of total paymeots into the scheme because massive up-front charges have been deducted by insurers. Those most likely to be af-

fected are people who are made

redundant, women who take career breaks to look after children, and those who find work in which they are able to join alternative company schemes. Research commissioned by The Independent also shows that many hundreds of millions of pouods of taxpayers'

money are poured by the Governmeot each year into meeting these high policy charges. More than £4.5bn of contributions into personal pension funds io 1995-96 came from tax

and National Insurance rebates, almost twice the amount paid in by policyholders themselves, according to figures from the Inland Revenue. Pension premiums paid by in-dividual policyholders are matched by rebates worth up to

66 per cent of total contributions. Taxpayers are therefore indirectly subsidising the profits made by many companies.
Philip Teliord, senior researcher at the Consumers' Association, said: "In these cases

what companies are saying by that is We are making sure that we are making a profit come what may'. The tax relief helps

Harriet Harman, Labour's

Hundreds of thousands of per-social security spokeswoman, social security spokeswoman, said yesterday: "These figures are shocking. They show that people are getting incredibly poor value for their hard-

earned savings."
A joint investigation by The Independent and Granada's World in Action programme, to be shown on Monday, reveals that many companies with the highest sales and the bestknown brand names are guilty of the same poor standards.

People are getting incredibly poor value for their hard-earned savings ?

The analysis, carried out by John Chapman, a former Office of Fair Trading official, shows that of 903,000 new policies tak-en out in 1996, at least 307,000 will have an investment worth. less than the total amount paid in premiums over two years. This is an average for the industry, and many firms have much worse records.

The list of high-charging com-panies includes household names such as Allied Dunbar Albany Life, Combill, Guardian, Scottish Life, Black Horse Fioancial Services, an offshoot of Lloyds Bank, and Sun Life.

For example, total payments of £2,400 into a pension from Black Horse may only be worth £734 after two years, even assuming investment growth of

9 per cent for each of those

The potential losses for tomorrow's pensioners are caused by the extremely high lapse rates on most personal retirement contracts. On average, 25 per cent of policyholders halt payments into schemes they buy from insurance salespeople within two years of starting them. For financial advisers, the figure is 15 per cent. Thereafter, lapse rates" generally contin-

It can take up to 10 years with contributions. The lapse rates al-

come under unprecedented attack over the mis-selling of personal pensions to more than 1.5

years. With one company, Old Mutual, the total is just £376.

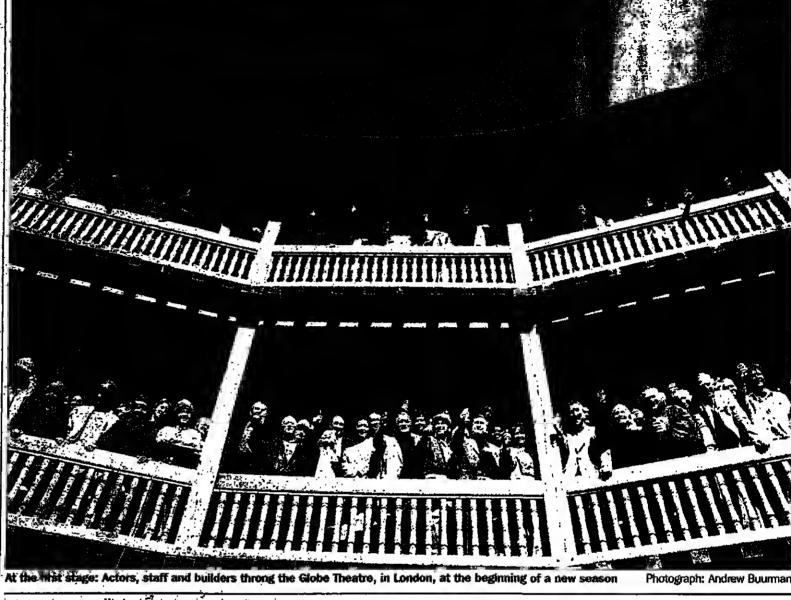
even", the point at which the pension is worth the same as low companies to premise fantastic maturity values on their pensions - though they are paid to a tiny minority of customers.

Mr Chapman's findings come
as the insurance industry has

million people between 1988 and 1993. Barely 8,000 victims have been compensated. More than double that number have died before receiving redress. A spokeswoman for the Association of British Insurers the industry trade body, said: "Pensions are a long-term in-vestment. If someone does not

have the intention of making contributions over the longer ing one and they should not be buying one and they should not be
sold one. However, many companies are increasingly offering
more competitive pension contracts, which shows that the in-

dustry is changing," she added.
Long Weekend, pages 23-26
Business comment, page 23
Mr. Blair was clearly rattled



# has trouble with his kilt

Colin Brown and Anthony Bevins

Tony Blair was wrong-footed for the first time in the election campaign last night as he faced a two-pronged attack over Scot-tish devolution. As the Labour leader launched his party's Scottish manifesto in Giasgow, he looked distinctly uncomfortable in the face of fierce questioning on his proposed Scottish

The day had started badly for Mr Blair after he compared the parliament's powers with those of an English parish council in an interview with the Scotsman. adding: "Sovereignty rests with me as an English MP and that's the way it will stay." His remarks were attacked by the Tories as "Indicrous and patronising," and by the Scottish Nationalist Party's leader, Alex Salmond,

by questions from Scottish journalists on whether Westminster would be able to veto the taxraising powers of a Scottish parliament. He was unable to answer the question, or others on how the parliament's power would square with his pledge to hold income tax down.

His body language, so assured during the campaign so far, was defensive and he resorted to snapping condescendingly at several persistent inquisitors.

"Look," he said repeatedly

and in increasingly exasperated tones, "I have pledged not to raise the basic and top rates of tax in Scotland as well as England and Wales. I can't speak for the other parties; you have to ask them what they would do." Mr Blair said there was a difference between having tax-

raising powers and using them, adding that Labour would not raise taxes and so would not use a Scottish parliament's tax-rais-Asked about sovereignty, he

replied: "We are offering devolution, oot separation. That means local services would be run here in Scotland and the rules and laws applied to them can be made in Scotland. But it is not separation and it is not the break-up of the UK."

It was his toughest grilling so far and it ended with the Scot-

tish press corps declaring themselves unhappy with his answers. The SNP leader, Alex Salmond, claimed Mr Blair had "shown his contempt and derision for Scotland."

"New Labour's devolution policy is now exposed by Blair for what it has always been - a deceit which would return to Edinburgh less power than an English parish council," he said.

John Major was quick to seize the opportunity to attack Labour. Clearly sensing serious vulnerability over the cracks in Labour's campaign, the Prime Minister went on to the offensive in some of the strongest lan guage he has used in the

"We are told we can't ask

people to pay more for a bet-ter education. Or change the way we live to protect our en-

vironment. Or share more to

give better opportunities to those who have less. Or mod-

emise our politics to give peo-

ject this timidity. We are in pol-

itics not just to manage things

Radio 5 Live that in local gov-

ernment his party was respoo-sible oow for £18bo of public

spending. And he told Radio 4's

Today programme his party would be willing to work with

lor, dismissed the Liberal

Democrat manifesto promises

but to make things happen.

The Liberal Democrats re-

Mr Ashdown said oo BBC

ple more say.

election. "What is clear is their Scottish Liberal Democrats, policies are in total and utter chaos as far as Scotland is coocerned. They say one thing in England and another thing in Scotland," he said. Earlier, Mr Major had warned of the danger of an English backlash against the Scots. He said that he did not want to see 290 years of Union put in jeopardy.

Jim Wallace, leader of the

said people had a right to decide through the ballot box whether they wanted the parliament to vary taxes. "The tax powers of the Scottish Parliament are every bit as much an issue of democracy as they are of taxation," he said. "Mr Blair is showing more interest in middle England voters than he is in Scottish democracy.



# Albanian children face food crisis

Confusion and chaos are mounting in Albania. According to Albanian government reports, food stocks are down to a tenth of normal levels. Those least able to help themselves will, as ever, be most at risk. Children's hospitals and orphanages do not know where the next food supplies will come from.

UK charity Children's Aid Direct has considerable experience of working in Albania and has a team on the ground. As soon as it is safe to deliver food and other urgently needed aid, this charity will make those deliveries. And they are appealing today for your help to do it.

A donation of £30 could buy enough high-protein food for 136 children. As the crisis deepens, Children's Aid Direct will be doing what they can - will you?

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OR please phone our donation line 0990 600 610 Please send to: Children's Ald Direct Dept No. 517, FREEPOST,

# Ashdown: Our learning society

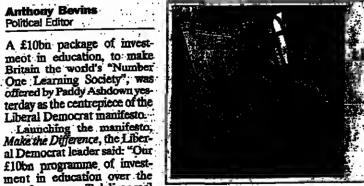
# In 8 million households across Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Britain, a oew terror will land oo the hallway mat oext week. in the shape of the oew Inland Revenue self-assessmeot tax return. The Institute of Chartered Accountants has launched a campaign to encourage taxpayers to seek the advice on the forms - from chartered Page 5 accountants.

New tax terror

Millennium merchants British companies are planning to sell everything from cars to deodorants, flowers to exotic holidays by cashing in on the millennium and what they hope will be a frenzy of consumers looking to buy a slice of Page 6

Zaire at bay in a few months Zaire's rebel forces have snatched vast swathes of territory from the country's once-mighty dictator, President Mobutu Sese Seko, and are advancing on the southem, mineral-rich provinces of Kasai and Shaba, threatening the diamond mines which have served as his personal bank for



election'97

tiberal Democrat manifesto, details and analysis, pages 12 and 13 Leading article, page 19 Letters, page 19

Jeremy Paxman and Trevor Phillips, page 21

standards in our schools drop any lower."

The manifesto also contained a costed programme for the National Health Service; with more doctors and nurses, a sixmonth limit on the waiting time for hospital treatment and free and reducing tax for 99.5 per eye and dental checks.

Mr Ashdown and colleagues hit a hitch on the section of the manifesto describing the polihree and four.

cy to redistribute £1.4bn from
Mr Ashdown said: "As a the 140,000 people with tarable
sation, we cannot afford to let income of receiving the

to finance an increase of £200. But that is not made clear for in the income tax threshold, taking 470,000 low-income people out of tax. The manifesto said:

"This will provide lower taxes word: "Eighteen years of Cooservative government have left and new incentives to work, while cutting the benefits bill our society divided, our public services run down, our sense of

cent of all income taxpayers." In fact, when a 1p increase in economy under-performing."

Loome tax rates is taken into ac
He complained of a fatalism income tax rates is taken into account, the measure needed to finance more education spend-

another 14 pages of the mani-Mr Ashdown says in a fore-

others in the new Parliameot: "We are fighting for every seat and every vote in this country and what happens the other side community fractured and our of the election will depend on the result of the ballot box." But on the same programme Kenneth Clarke, the Chancel-

infecting politics. "Though the challenges are immense, the Mr Ashdown said: "As a the 140,000 people with taxable ing staif the remaining 25 mil-nation, we cannot afford to let income of more than £100,000 ign taxpayers will be worse off.

as "third-party flannel".

oext five years will deliver real

improvements in our children's

The manifesto offered new

books - and equipment for schools to the tune of £110,000 more for a secondary school

with 1,000 pupils, and an extra

£16,000 for primaries with 250

pupils; a cap of 30 on class sizes

for children between five and 14;

and a guarantee of oursery

three and four.

education for all children of

education."

# significant shorts

# BNFL fined £20,000 for nuclear danger from bridge

The operators of the Sellafield nuclear plant showed a "total disregard" for repeated warnings that a bridge carrying radioactive waste over a commuter railway line was in danger of collapse, a magistrate said yesterday.

British Nuclear Fuels was fined the maximum £20,000 with costs

of £3,844 after pleading guilty at the magistrates' court in Whitehaven, Cumbria, to breaching ouclear regulations.

The court heard that for more than six years the state-owned company failed to act on a series of recommendations to carry out "urgent and immediate" repair work on the 100-metre-long bridge carrying the main low-level radioactive discharge from the plant over the Barrow-to-Carlisle railway line and out to the Irish Sea. There had been the risk that a collapse of the bridge could have caused the pipe to fracture with a leak of radioactive material,

Steven Zdolyny, for the prosecution, told the court.

Imposing the maximum fine allowable, Frank Hornsby, the magistrates chairman, said: "The total disregard of reports prepared between 1990 and 1995 recommending urgent remedial action is of grave concern."

### Jail for children's embezzier

A children's charity treasurer was jailed for two-and-a-half years

yesterday after phundering thousands of pounds.

Bank clerk Charles Atkinson, 59, helped himself to £109,000 over 10 years either by pocketing cash donations to the Church of England Children's Society or by forging cheques for cash.

Other members of the charity's tommittee m Canterbury, Kent, were completely unaware of their treasurer's deceit. Atkinson, of St Margaret's Bay, near Dover in Keot, admitted 12 thefts and one forgery between July 1986 and February 1996 and asked for a further 320 offences to be taken into consideration.

The court heard that Atkinson's wife, e retired school teacher, and his two children had oo idea what he was doing. Atkinson was appointed treasurer of the charity in 1978 by virtue of his position as a senior clerical assistant et the National Westminster Bank, in Canterbury, where he had worked since 1955. NatWest has since reimbursed the charity, plus £22,000 in interest and a further £4,700 to meet their solicitor's cost.

### Frank discussions on Broadway



Mary Poppins told a fib? Surely not! But that is what is being suggested in a squabble underway between the insurance industry and the producers of the Broadway spectacular Victor/Victoria,

Neither side was talking yesterday, but according to the Wall Street Journal, Julie Andrews (left), is accused of heing, well, not entirely frank when she completed forms to buy insurance for the show. The policy is meant to pay out as

much as \$8.5m (£5.3m) if she is felled by illness. At issue, it seems, is the denial Ms Andrews gave when asked if she had ever suffered from any respiratory illnesses. Ms Andrews, whose husband, Blake Edwards, directed the show, responded likewise to questions about "any disease, disorder or injury of the booes, joints, muscles, back, spine, or oeck". The exact nature of the dispute is not clear. In making the allegation, the consortium of insurers, led by Lexington Insurance Company, has apparently cancelled the policy, leaving Victor/Victoria uncovered. The shocked producers have hit back with e lawsuit. So far, Ms Andrews, 61, has been forced to miss 30 show's openi a variety of ailments. But her defeoders will point out that she has turned up for almost 600 of them on a gruelling routine of eight performances a week. David Usborne - New York

### Train driver's trial for manslaughter

The driver of a commuter train that crashed at Watford Junction, killing one passenger, was yesterday committed for trial accused of

Peter Afford, 56, of Bushey, Hertfordshire, was accused of unlawfully killing Hemel Hempstead journalist Ruth Holland, 54, and with endangering passengers' lives by failing to stop at e red signal. Mr Afford, who was employed by North London Railways, was committed to St Albans Crown Court by Watford magistrates.

A pre-trial hearing will be held on 9 May. The crash happened on 8 August last year wheo the 17.04 Euston-to-Watford Junction train, which he was driving, crashed into an empty train et Watford. Seventy passengers were injured.

### Jaguar to recall 5,000 cars

Jaguar is to recall nearly 5,000 of its XK8 models, including more than 800 in the United Kingdom, because of e possible rear suspensioo fault, it was announced yesterday.

The Coventry-hased luxury-car company said there had been three minor incidents involving the rear suspension, but there hed been no accidents and no one had been hurt. Described as the spiritual successor to the popular E-type of the early Sixties, the XK8 went on sale last October. The coupé version costs around £48,000 and the convertible about £55,000.

# Police inquiry into sex assaults

A major police inquiry was launched yesterday into allegations that a serving officer carried out e string of sexual assaults on women.

The investigation, by Cleveland Police, is headed by Detective
Chief Inspector Dave Martin of the force's Complaints and Discipline Department. The force has called in the Police Complaints Authority to supervise the inquiry. A police spokesman said: "I can confirm that an officer has been suspended pending an investigation into an alleged series of sexual assaults. No charges have yet been made against the officer, who has been released on bail."

# Anti-road arrests in Toy Town

Four anti-road protesters were arrested yesterday after police moved in to evict them from a camp known as Toy Town, in Cornwall. Protesters set up camp earlier in the week et Boscundle, near St Austell, on the route of a £7m scheme to link the A390 and A391 roads. Tweoty-five police moved in at 6am and asked the six

protesters oo the site to leave following a complaint from the land-owner, a Devon and Cornwall Police spokesman said yesterday. A 23-year-old woman was arrested for obstruction and taken into custody at Newquay, north Cornwall. Contractors began felling trees at the site at around 7am. Three protesters, who had earlier left the site, were arrested wheo they returned at 8.30am and attempted to climb trees, said the police. During the night an ambulance was called to the site wheo a 10-year-old boy fell from a tree. The child was not seriously injured, police said.

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# Voice of the nears the en

A lles Gineberg, founding voice of the Beat gen-eration and the man who coined the term flower power, has been diagnosed with terminal liver cancer, it was announced yesterday. The 70-year old poet is being cared for in his Manhattan apartment. According to his friend Bill Morgan, he is calmly writing poetry, practising Buddhist meditation and plan-ning "to finish his life's work".

Girsberg's raucous rejection of social convention has inspired four decades of hipsters, drop-outs and dissidents. His final illness comes at a time when the influence of the Beats on later counter-cultural movements looks as strong as ever. Director Martin Score ese's film of On the Road, by Ginsberg's friend, collaborator and occasional tover, Jack Kerouac, willopen soon. Meanwhile, Bob Dylan - whose style as

open soon. Meanwhile, Bob Dylari — whose style as a lyric writer owes everything to Ginsberg and the Beats — continues to tour around the world and will play at the Fleadh music festival in London's Finsbury Park in June.

Ginsberg, born in New Jersey in 1926 and educated at Columbia University, sprang into the limetight from the New York artistic underground when he published Howl in 1956. His loose-timbed, visionary lines mixed echoes of Blake and Whitmen with the data; and a spell on young rebets around the world.

Is background. Never, langting the gertage as style we did four the gertage. She may be discussed the limited for the publication of Ginsberg's fourness have paid more affinished. They vividity portray the group of friends, colleagues and, sometime, lovers — Kerobac, Neal, Cassady, william Burjeughs, and the poet himself—who still cast mixed echoes of Blake and Whitmen with the data; and a spell on young rebets around the world.

# Delia cooks up a right royal fortune

Delia Smith, the cookery guru and writer, is now as rich as Diana, Princes of Wales, according to the annual Sunday Times Rich List. Diana - who is better off than her former husband - and Delia share

the 916th place with £17m each. The list, which is published tomorrow, claims to be "the definitive guide to Briain'e wealth® and covers the nation's richest 1,000 citizens. If you believe the Sunday Times list, which has been accused of inaccuracy in the past, their combined wealth totals

£98.999bn. Mohammed al-Fayed, the controversial owner of Harrods, who has consistently embarrassed the Government, is finally allowed entry to the list, after a "ringing endorsement" for his inclusion from Tiny Rowland, his former arch

Doubts have often heen raised by Mr Fayed'e opponents about whether the money used to buy the Knightsbridge store actually belonged to him, but now the Sunday Times has graciously decided that it does, and puts his wealth at £1.000m.

Among other prominent entries in the list, which is scoured as much by those who appear on it as those who merely aspire, are Lakshmi and Usha Mittal (wealth estimated at £1,500m), husband and wife steel magnates and the highest entry at number



Dr Tony O'Reilly, the Irish businessman whose publishing company is a major shareholder in The Independent, and his wife, Chryss Goulandris, also join the list "be-cause of O'Reilly'e continued expansion into the media in Britain". Dr O'Reilly's wealth is estimated at £1.000m.

According to the list the top 500

added £16.299bn in the last year to their respective fortunes, which now total £86.877bn. Entry to the exclusive top 500

requires a personal wealth of £40m, compared to £35m last

But the average wealth of the top 500 is put at £173.7m - up £33.7m on last year's average of £140m. However Britain is still making

little impact or the global wealth lists. American billionaires still dominate the world's top 10.

# Cherie Booth honoured by her peers

Cherie Booth, the QC and wife of Tony Biair, the Labour Party leader, was last night named Legal Personality of the Year in the annual

Lawyer magazine awards. The 42-year-old employment and public law specialist broke off from election campaigning to receive the award from comedian Ronnie Corbett at a dinner at the

Hilton Hotel, central London. The predominantly legal readership of the paper was asked to specify the reasons behind their choice of personality. In Ms Booth'e case, the collective view was said last night to have been her skills as a barrister and advocate, her commitment and energy and her advancement in her profession - all achieved as a working mother-of-three.

The award follows disappointment in some quarters that she was beaten last year by the former Law Society president, Martin Mears, who shot to prominence solely because of his maverick and views and constant embarrass ment of the Chancery Lane establishment. But this year, Ms Booth has the satisfaction of beating nominees such as Michael Howard, the Home Secretary many

lawyers love to hate. She also pipped the (more pop-ular) outgoing Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackey of Clashfern, and Anthony Julius, polymath and solici-tor to Diana, Princess of Wales. Patricia Wynn Davies

### Laboratory-grown comeas offer hope to thousands

Doctors said yesterday they had repaired the damaged eyes of two patients using comea tissue grown in the laboratory. The breakthrough offers new hope to thousands of people who were blinded or had their sight impaired by injury or disease and af present cannot expect their sight to be restored.

A team in Italy took tiny pieces of tissue from the edge of the comea and grew cells from them in laboratory dishes until they approach to swaft on in the damaged areas.

comea and grew cells from them in imporatory disnes than they formed sheets large enough to graft on to the damaged areas. Their patients were two men who were severely injured at work by chemical burns that had destroyed their corneas.

Writing in the Lancet, the researchers, led by Dr Michele De Luca, of the Instituto Dermopatico dell'Immacolata in Rome, said that two years after having the grafts, the lab-grown cells were functioning normally in both men and there was a "striking immaturement in patients' confirms and visual artifut."

improvement in patients' comfort and visual acuity".

The tissue used came from an area called the limbus which harbours special "stem" cells capable of multiplying into unlimited numbers of corneal cells. Only a small number of stem cells from an undamaged part of the eye are needed to produce oew tissue.

#### TECHNOLOGY

### Virtual migraine machine unveiled

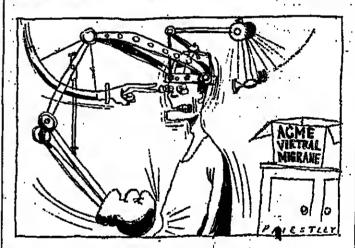
If you don't get migraines but want to find out what it's like, a machine unveiled at the Edinburgh International Science Festival could help you out. Using virtual reality techniques, a new system will recreate the triggers, symptoms and visual disturbances of a migraine – though not the headaches, nauses or vomiting that

migrame - though not the neutrices, into the virtual sufferers of the virtual reality helmet what happens to a migraine sufferer's vision when they feel an attack coming on, and then some indications of the pain and disorientation that sufferers endure in an attack. This is followed by some information about likely causes.

Dr Colin Mumford, consultant neurologist at the Western
General Hospital in Edinburgh, said: "For many migraine
sufferers an attack can be so bad that they can do nothing but lie
in a dark room for up to three days while they get over it. But the
general public is often quite unsympathetic about the condition.
They class it as just a headache with a fancy name and don't understand what actually happens. If this new machine can open their eyes to how debilitating the condition is, then perhaps employers, friends and family will be more sympathetic."

Migraine affects about 10 per cent of the UK population, and

m are up to three times more likely to experience it. Attacks last between two and 72 hours.



### DEFENCE

# MPs highlight missing weapons

The Public Accounts Committee yesterday had some faint praise for the MoD's financial management of the British intervention in Bosnia which, it said, had cost £337m from December 1995 to December 1996, plus £25m for air and sea operations. However, it highlighted the fact that paperwork relating to £3.9m worth of ammunition – from rifle bullets to 155mm artillery rounds – had oot yet been traced, although 452 Milan anti-tank missiles, worth £6m, had been found.

The MoD said it was confident none of the ammunitioo had been lost or stolen, and that in the "fast-moving" situation wheo the Peace Implementation Force arrived in Bosnia, it had been

difficult to conduct regular stocktakes.

The PAC report said: "It was to the Department's credit that in spite of all the difficulties they nevertheless imposed on themselves the rigorous standards of peacetime administration and accounting and it was clear that the Department intended to learn from those

instances where the arrangements did not work as intended".

The MoD said an investigation into the missing paperwork was still underway, and that when they had established what had happened there would be an inquiry into how the errors occurred.

Committee of Public Accounts, 23rd Report 1996-97. Ministry of Defence: the Financial Management of the former Yugoslavia,
Christopher Bellamy

3

### MEDICINE

### **Heart drug is more harm than good**

A well-established heart disease drug significantly increases the risk of death in seriously ill patients, doctors said yesterday. The finding comes from a European study of the effect of fibopamine on the survival of almost 2,000 patients with advanced heart failure. Patients were randomly assigned the drug or an inert placebo. It was found that a quarter of the patients in the fibopamine group died, compared with 20 per cent of the placeho group.

The study, originally designed to include 2,200 patients, was stopped early because of the unacceptable number of deaths among those taking ibopamine. Previous research has shown that ibopamine improves symptoms in patients with mild heart disease. The drug is prescribed as a well-established freatment in several European countries, although not currently in the UK.

European countries, although not currently in the UK.

The results of this study, headed by Professor John Hampton, of
the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine, Queen's Medical
Centre, University Hospital, Nottingham, were said to have led to
restrictions on its use in countries where it is licensed.

### TRAVEL

# Celluloid vision boosts holidays

Tourists are turning to two previously unfashionable countries thanks to a tunnel and a film. Britain's specialist travel bookshops are reporting strong sales of guidebooks to Belgium and Morocco.

James Daunt, proprietor of the Daunt's Books for Travelless in

London believes that Eurostar trains to Brussels have put Belgium
on the map, with guide books to Bruges selling particularly well.

Interest in Morocco is harder to explain. "It's somewhere we've

been selling in enormous numbers", says Mr Daunt, who believes the film *The English Patient* may be partly responsible. Even though it is set in Egypt and filmed in Itunisia, the Oscar-winning movie has sparked interest in the whole of North Africa.

Another good indicator of travel intentions is sales of maps at Stanford's, the UK's biggest map and book retailer based in

London's Covent Garden. Figures released to The Independent yesterday show that the the strongest sellers are old favourites, Michelin map 446 to southern Spain and the Touring Club Italiano maps of Umbria and Tuscany.

Simon Calder



**NEWSPAPERS** SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41\_2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

# Voice of racing runs his final furlong

Peter O'Sullevan, the 'voice of racing', will commentate on his last Grand National today, after keeping punters across the land on the edge of their seats and enthralled by his "hectic drawf" for nearly half a

century.
O'Sullevan, who first covered the race in 1947 and started 'calling the running' two years later for BBC Radio, has brought his unmistakable voice to every National since the race was first televised in 1960.

As befitting an individual who has become synonymous with the sport, a hronze bust of O'Sullevan will

be unveiled at the Aintree racecourse by the Princess Royal. The Princess will then join O'Sullevan in his commentary box for the race. The Princess is not O'Sullevan's only royal fan: the Queen and the Queen Mother both wrote tributes to him in Coming To The Last, a book of tributes pub-

lished to mark his retirement. Mary Robinson, the

irish President, also reminisces about Saturday after-

moons listening to his voice on a crackling old wireless with her father and brothers.

It is his "clipped, dark brown" voice that has made his commentary so instantly recognisable. Russell Davies described it as "perhaps the only hectic drawl in captivity", while writer Hugh McIvanney is quoted as saying O'Sullevan is: "possibly the most accomplished reader of action operating on any sport in the English-speaking world".

Despite his wealth of experience, O'Sullevan admits to being nervous before the race. "It is something one looks forward to with as much trepidation as expectation. One is always very conscious of the

enormous audience - it is not an easy assignment,\* he said yesterday.

The National ie the most popular race in the

country, attracting the largest betters as well as the punters who have a small annual flutter.

المكذا من المذهل

# Good Eiggs

# Scottish islanders delighted as they win battle to buy their homeland

**Matthew Brace** 

A THI MATER

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> The resideots of a wild and beautiful Scottish island, which has been at the ceotre of a bitter eight-month ownership bat-tle, finally bought their tiny homeland yesterday.
>
> Who should own the small

> outcrop of Eigg, off the west coast of Scotland, has been the subject of a heated debate since its previous owner, a German artist called Marlin Eckhart who owned it for just 15 months, put it up for sale in August last year with an asking price of £2m.

At the time, the islanders' campaign to raise enough money from public donations to buy the island seemed a wild Celtic dream, especially considering the frequency with which wealthy rock stars and busioessmen snap up such islands to create private hideaways.

However, against the odds, the members of the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust clinched the historic deal in Edinburgh. yesterday and the 63 islanders will take possession of the

7,400-acre outcrop on 12 June. The Trust printed a credit card hotline in oational newspapers along with an address for who live under a landlord's

donations. Yesterday they were calling on all those who had made a pledge to honour their

Personal pledges account for £1.50,000 of the £1.5m raised by the appeal to pay for the island. About a million was pledged in relatively small donations, many for just £1.

The National Lottery refused to give the Eigg Trust any money - they had hoped for £750,000 - because it wanted the Trust to be led by wildlife interests and not the islanders.

cessfully tabled a bid for the island thought to be in the region of £1.2m last year but who now own the island in a trust with the of the sale.

have all dreamt about since we formed the partnership and set

by an anonymous group of a dozen wealthy sympathisers. But more than £400,000 came

The islanders, who unsuc-

Highland Council and the Scottish Wildlife Trust, said they were delighted about the news Maggie Fyffe, secretary of the Trust, said: "This is the day we

out on our journey into the un-"It is a great day, not only for Eigg, but for all communities



### Happy ending to a 700-year tale

حكدًا من الأصل

parked the end of private ownership which has dominated the Island for the past 780 years. Since 4308, owners have ranged from a

whim. It shows that people in the Highlands and Islands are no longer prepared to be bought and sold like cutlery for

the former Olympic bobsleigh raicer, Keith year their first bid of £1.2m was rejected as too low. Two Schellenberg, who bought Eigg fee 2270,000 in 1974. The latest eight-month, sales round has been a schemes, one for a singing school run by the opera ainger Luciano Pavarotti, the other for a holiday complex, both came to nought and

tense time for the islanders and was their third attempt to buy in December last have had everything thrown

into this plot from opera stars and won through." to international companies was a significant victory for those pushing for land reform promising the earth. Nobody would have believed the script "Over the last few months we if Alastair Maclean had written in Scotland. "We have shown

what is possible and we could oot have done it without fantastic public support. People from all walks of life have shown with their donations that they backed us from the start," she said.

"We oow have security of tenure and can get down to controlling our own destinies. Together with the council and the wildlife trust we can oow plan a sustainable future for this land and its ecology.

"This is a victory for land reform in Scotland and we are going to have biggest and best

risk strategy for the fiftysome-

things. They continue to draw

shows, but the creative juices fail

to flow as well in the studio.

How many Rolling Stones, Paul

# SINDEPENDEN

IN TOMORROW'S

Five sections for the very best in news, features, sport, business, travel, property, and money



BACK TO HER ROOTS

Cole Moreton on the return of Sinead O'Connor



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Café Cook Book Two IT IS. ARE YOU?

# Too old at 50? Too young to die

### Elton John is 50. It's not too old to keep rocking. David Lister reports

Eltoo John would be unwise to Blues guitarist John Mayall has sing his seventies chart topper just released his latest album at Saturday Night's All Right 54. But this is child's play com-For Fighting at his hirthday pared to John Lee Hooker party tomorrow night. Fifty is a whose latest entitled Don't difficult age for rock stars. And Look Back will mark his 80th there's oothing the cynics like birthday this year. He has no in-more than the incongruity of tention of retiring and is wor-

persists in the oction of fifty-pluses singing rock o roll. It is and experience become part of a joke never made about jazz or the music. One doesn't listen to blues artists where it is conrock for wisdom and experience. sidered de rigeur for the creative juices to continue flowing after Mevertheless, there is much more acceptance now of older the age of fifty. Indeed sometimes they do not even begin until the age of 50. A Sonny Rollins tour receives none of the vitriol or arthritis jokes that be such a problem." accompany The Rolling Stones or Bee Gees.

In other musical genres longevity is a sign of virility. And sex is often a force in jazz and hlues lyrics just as in rock music.

rebel rousing lyrics and paunches and balding pates.

A perception of absurdity persists in the option of fiftyrock stars. Forty was the difficult age psychologically for aodiences, the media and the

fiftysomethings are returning with a vengeance. Far from just doing the predictable greatest hits revival tours in money-



rock for wisdom and experience. headlining the open air festivals their teens and twenties.



where the audiences are in David Bowie will top the bill one of London's trendiest and be such a problem."

This symmer the rock n roll

This symmer the rock n roll

Dylan will top the bill, followed by fellow fiftysomething with a vengeance. Far from

Wan Morrison

One of the Fleadh organisers Caffy St Luce said: "The music





Wrinkly rockers still hitting the road (left to right): Elton John, David Bowie Van Morrison and Barry Manilow. Forty was the difficult age psychologically for audiences. Fifty does not seem to be so difficult

reaction among our young audiences at all against seeing these people. Indeed they're the David Bowie will top the bill people they really want to see at the Phoenix Festival at Stratford upon Avon. At the Fleadh, While Dylan, Morrison and

Bowie remain intent on playing to a young audience at youth friendly venues, even more un-likely figures are trying to plug in to a younger market. Housewives favourite Barry Manilow has released a 10 minute techspinning stadia, they are is timeless, and we've found on no remix of one of his songs to

now the peace of the Island

it. But we all stood firm together

Ms Fyffe added that this

is assured.

This is less wise. As John Harris of the dance magazine Select said oo the Today programme: "That's the sound of the disco grandad. He is using handclaps and other techniques that were briefly trendy five years ago. It's nowhere near the cutting edge now." A comment that could be applied to the even more grotesque spectacle of 70-year-old Pat

McCartney, Elton John or Bob Dylan songs can one remember from the past five years? Yet their early work remains etched on most mental turntables.

Quite why the gift of creating new rock music should desert the rock legends while the ability to give an outstanding live show remains, is a mys-tery. Pete Townshend of The the youthful energy that drives three minute pop songs.

Mat Snow says: "For the most part the song writing gland

does tend to dry up, but that's not unique to rock music.

Boooe cutting a heavy metal al- other advantages. For those hum. who play the conventional sta-dia and "middle aged gigs" rather than the youth festivals by music oo the internet, trying to be at the cutting edge is a high there is increasingly sound busioess sense for ageing rockers to keep going. The National Mu-sic Festival last year featured crowds and critical praise for live Dylan, The Who and Eric Clapton, and saw the largest oumber of corporate hospitality packages ever at a British rock concert.

"Everybody oo Eigg has

played their part, but there is go-

ing to be a lot hard work in

store. However, for the mo-ment, we are just celebrating the

Champagne and tears flowed as the islanders celebrated their

Colin Strang Steel, a partner in charge of the Edinburgh office of the firm of estate

ageots who had been dealing

with the sale of the island,

Knight Frank, said yesterday

that he was delighted the

nine-month battle for Eigg was

momeot," she said.

triumph.

finally over.

Eveo The Who, whose leader Pete Townshend vowed never to "try to relive my youth" by touring again, have been wooed by a mixture of mooey and fan demand back on to the But if rock stars have got over

their psychological crises and are happy to perform into their Who puts it down to a lack of fifties and even sixties, it is hard to ignore one overwhelming factor. All the fiftysomethings are male. From Sandie Shaw to Abba, the chanteuses of previous decades have all left the limelight. The How many Broadway composers kept churning it out after 50?" And live shows have old Spice.

omeos are not good for The Spice Girls graduating to Old Spice.

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# Industry rocked by cost of IRA attacks on motorways

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ian Burrell and Mark Rowe

view the terrorist attacks and security alerts which caused transport chaos twice in the past 10 days.

After more searches, the M6 was reopened just before 3pm yesterday after a 30-hour closure estimated to have cost industry £70m. The AA said the planting of two bombs on

Police officers met yesterday to rebegan at 8am on Thursday, is believed to have disrupted the journeys of almost 1 million motorists.

In Chester, John Grieve, National Co-ordinator for Auti-Terrorism, and members of his Metropolitan Police team met specialist officers from the North-west and Midlands

disruption ran at about £2.5m an hour. Every day 180,000 drivers, instretches of the M6, M1 and M5 that

across the Midlands. Congestion the M6 and two boax devices on the throughout Staffordshire, with traf-

M1 led to "the worst incidence of transport network. Business leaders - fic at a standstill around Cannock. Traffic Association, said the journeys traffic congestion seen in this coun- said that the cost of the motorway Stafford and Walsall. The effects will of more than 100,000 goods vehicles be mainly felt by the freight indushad been disrupted. try and distributors but also right

chiding 77,000 lorries, use the three across the country," said Tony etches of the M6, M1 and M5 that Bradley, policy director of the re closed. Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. This is the crossroads and traffic off the motorways was felt the most important link of Britain's motorway network and I'm a little surprised this hasn't happened earlier." Geoff Dossetter, of the Freight

He said: "A large lorry costs £1 a mile to run, so if you have to make a 100-mile detour and get stuck on jams on unsuitable roads, then the costs will escalate horribly. Modern life is delivered on the back of a lorry, so this has been mind-numbingharrendous.

The IKEA furniture company is

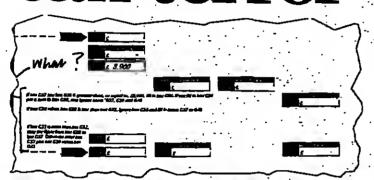
avert further traffic disruption. "We are usually very busy in the second

week of Easter and as a family firm we would have hoped to see up tn 10,000 people visiting the store. Having one of our seven stores shut for two days does have an effect nn our takings," a spokesman said.

also counting the cost after it closed its store on a retail park off Junction nine on the M6 on police advice to IRA training camp in County Monaghan, near the border with North-

em Ireland, writes Alan Murdoch The long tunnels were constructed at a site apparently chosen for its remoteness. They were found two miles into the forest during a four-■ Police in the Irish Republic have area, near the village of Scotstown.

# Accountants cash in on 'tax terror'



Idiot-proof: The Inland Revenue claims the new form is easier to follow

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In 8 million households across the country, a new terror in pale blue plastic will land on the hall-way mat next week. It is the new Inland Revenue self-assessment tax return.

Even as the taxmen were repeating their mantra yesterday that the revised form is simpler and, for most people, shorter, critics were claiming the new system will cause confusion and

Only one thing looks certain: accountants should be on to a winner, and the Institute of Chartered Accountants has launched a campaign to encourage taxpayers to seek professional advice.

The aim when the Inland Revenue set about re-designing the system three years ago was the millions of self-employed, company directors, business partners, high-rate taxpayers and some pensioners who have

A revenue spokeswoman said: "It is much more straightforward than the old forms. We're not being complacent, but if you sit down and read it, it will be clear."

up to 1 million as a result of the

For those who receive a form, if it is returned by 31 September, the revenue will work out the tax for you. Anyone who wants to do it themselves has until the end of January.

An automatic penalty of £100 has been introduced for forms est on any late tax. Up to £3,000 can be levied for not keeping

proper records. The Institute of Chartered Accountants said it was concerned that many taxpayers would not be able to understand the form and that new powers of investigation were "confrontational and unfair".,

Aspokesman, said: "There's into disrepute because I'm not confident that the people in the districts are getting the back-up they really need to help tar-payers [with queries]."

Jonathan Bruce, of Ernst and Young said tarpayers could

not afford to ignore the form because of the penalties. He believed the revenue was encouraging people to send in their forms for it to assess be-

The number of people af-fected has actually decreased by could get them right - and i could get them right - and if they did not, figures would have to be amended and efficiency savings lost. But if they did send in their forms, they had to trust the taxman

Only 4.5 million of those taxpayers currently receiving forms employed accountants, he added. When self-assessment was introduced in Australia, returned late and there are the proportion rose from 20 per surcharges in addition to inter-cent to 80 per cent.

John Whiting of the Char-tered Institute of Taxation said people should not panic. "If you've really got simple af-

fairs and if you're prepared to take time, you shouldn't need an adviser. "Anyone who feels they need a fiscal health-check should be

thinking of getting advice." Moira Elms, of Coopers and Lybrand, said in two or three

ably feel self-assessment had been a change for the better. to take time to understand it.

Some parts were more diffi-cult. In the past, for example, a taxpayer might have referred the revenue to information the employer had to provide. Now this had to be provided on the taxpayer's own form.



Zip mode: Liz Rankin gets into her Fat Lady costume for an English National Opera rehearsal of the The Damnation of Faust Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

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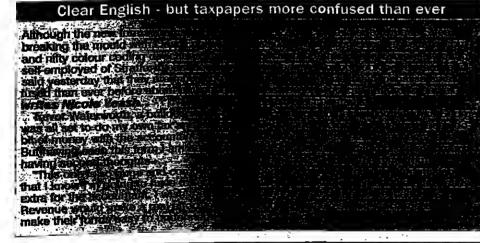
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# CORK & KERRY. BEAT THE CLOCK!



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Miles ahead of the the rest

# Every second counts as Britain sells off the millennium

Aiready signed up as long term partners for the millenni

um are Mumm Champagne

which has booght the position of "Official Champagne" of the millennium, and Accurist, which, as official timekeeper for

Greenwich, is supplying a 1,000-day countdown clock.

or of Loodon, Alderman Roger

Cork, were at a private New

Year's Eve-style party at the ob-servatory last night for the of-

ficial unveiling of the Green-wich Millennium Countdown

A deal has even been signed for a millennium wine from a

Bordeaux vineyard that lies on

the zero meridian. A commemorative com has also beeo

Greenwich has sold the tele

visioo rights to a 24-hour

telethon oo New Year's Eve

1999 at the meridian to usher

planned.

Television personality Caro Vorderman and the Lord May-

Paul McCann Media Correspondent

In a move that will confirm the fears of those worried about the commercialisation of everything, the Old Royal Observatory in Greeowich announced yesterday that it is looking for

someone to sponsor time.
In fact it is looking for lots of sponsors who will pay to attach their names to the 1,000 days that are left between today and New Year's Eve 1999.

operation set up by the Old Royal Observatory, part of the National Maritime Museum, to exploit Greenwich's zero degree longitude position on the meridian.

Meridian 2000 hopes to attract companies with oames and numbers that will be significant to them - the company is already hopeful about selling day 57 to Heinz to tie in with its 57 Varieties brand and Boeing has expressed an interest in buying day 737.

More obscurely, Xerox is interested in days that relate to the model numbers of its range of

Since no one has yet found a way to copyright time, Meridian 2000 is offering the Old Royal Observatory as a venue for seum hopes to raise £8m from corporate hospitality on the exploiting the millennium. It days bought, and is allowing the sponsoring companies to use the Greenwich Meridian logo.
£12m it has received from the National Lottery Heritage Fund

A thousand days up for grabs as new Century fuels drive for funds

as officially connected with the the millennium.

The initiative is part of fun concept of being able to buy Meridian 2000, a marketing a day," said Laura Weston, the National Maritime Museums' spokeswoman. "It's not all commercial, we are making day 1,000 an open day for the pub-lic and day 999, Sunday, is given free to the emergency

> Members of the public will also be able to hire the observatory - from around £3,500 for the day - if they want to mark significant dates such as wed-

ding anniversaries.
"We're hoping to offer some thing practical to the companies who have a vague idea that they should be doing something re-Simon Gillespic whose corporate hospitality company is selling off the 1,000 days.

The National Maritime Muneeds the money to top up National Lottery Heritage Fund The Greenwich logo allows towards a £20m redevelopment brands to promote themselves of museum huildings.



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# Sunset over the Old Royal Observatory: Plans are afoot at Greenwich to take commercial advantage of the millennium Photograph: Geraint Lew



Colin Blackstock and Nicole Veash

British companies are planning to sell everything from cars to deodorants, flowers to exotic holidays by cashing in on the millennium and what they hope will be a frenzy of consumers looking to buy a slice of history. Most "millennium" goods are heing placoed behind closed doors and will not be launched until nearer the date, but some needed very longterm planning.
Bushmills Distillery, leading

Irish whiskey makers, hegan making their millennium tipple in 1975.

Wealthy whiskey-lovers from across the world, including Star Trek actor LeVar Burton and Inspector Morse star John Thaw. have lined up to buy the single

A spokesman said: "We have made 360 barrels and started selling them oearly three years ago. There was a real rush to buy them.
The last one sold about a

year ago. But they are a bit spe-cial, because each bottle comes with the buyer's name on the la-A more blatant exploitatioo

is planned by manufacturers who can simply re-brand their products with a "millennium"

Trevor Elliott, manager of Honda Motor Sports, said: "I think most car manufacturers will be planning to launch spe-cial editions of their existing ranges, but everyone is keeping quiet at the moment.
"It will probably be a marketing-led initiative, rather than

the creation of new products. But most companies will want to do some kind of tie-in." The range of millennium goods already on offer is eclec-tic. The Royal National Rose

Society has a millennium range of roses in the horticulture market; there is a special scent from bodyspray makers Impulse and even a new millennium range of luggage from Avon Cosmetics have al-

ready nabbed one of the scarce mium patents with their Millennia perfume for womeo, which is said to "fuse past, pre-sent and future into an intoxiating blend of mystical spices". Christian Brown, a for the company, benefit a lot of people."



said: "It is already our thirdbest-selling fragrance and we are planning to launch Millen-nia aftershave for meo soon." The Patent Office is oow being inundated with companies rushing to register millennium

trademarks.
Geoff Sargant, assistant director of marketing, said: "If companies are blatantly seeking to simply cash in on the event or day itself and use the term in a way that prevents someone

else from domg so, they are un-likely to get the trademark."

British Airways are also lay-ing plans for a high-flying celebratioo oo Coocorde. A spokesman said: "Nothing has been finalised yet, but we've had lots of inquiries from people who want to charter Concorde to New York and fly through three datelines. But we really want to do something which will



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# Choosing a partner is like finding a job

Social Affairs Correspondent

THE PARTY NAME

Your eyes meet across a crowded room and suddenly you know there is no one else for you. You have never felt this way before.

The glorious irrationality of the emotion called love? Not at all, according to new research. Your choice of lover has subconsciously been made coolly and rationally, based on a mathematical model - similar to how job applications are processed - which analyses the

best mate you're likely to get.
But finding the love of your life through mathematics does not have to be a long, protracted process. Dr. Peter Todd, of the Max Planck Institute in Munich, said that by the time someone had met 12 potential partners they had enough information to make a good choice as to who should be their life-long love.

By the time you had analysed the dozen you were attracted to, Dr. Todd told the British Psychological Society's Annual Conference, you had formed the criteria of what you were looking for in a life partner and would then take the next best

one that came along. To consider more could mean you ended up with the law of di-

Reports by Glenda Cooper minishing returns. This is solace for people who believe you don't have to spend your whole life searching for the right per-son," he said.

For true perfectionists he added that the 37 per cent rule which was currently used to evaluate job applications could

It is estimated that once an employer has seen 37 per cent of job applicants a coherent picture of the ideal employee is built up and the next person to fulfil these criteria is the one that gets the job.

When it came to affairs of the beart, Dr. Todd said that you should first estimate how many people you were likely to meet in life, assess the first 37 per cent, remember who was best, and then take the next person who measured up. Unfortu-nately, you would probably have to search through 75 per cent of potential acquaintances to do so. And for most of us who meet thousands of people, it is likely to be an impossible task.

However, Dr. Todd said there was no point in going to the other extreme and marrying your ehildhood sweetheart, because at the time you met, you would probably not have assessed enough potential spouses to make a logical choice.



Biting the hand: Psychologists say pets could have more sinister, Darwinian motives than just love and a stroke

# Pets may be after more than affection

Your tabby cat may seem to be your best friend when she responds to a gentle pat with what seems like unconditional

love and devotion. But beware: your pet may be manipulating you into treating it like a favoured child, at the potential expense

of your own offspring. In Darwinian terms, this is highly beneficial for Rover but not such good news for the evolution of the human race, the British Psychological Society annual conference heard yesterday.

"Pet-keeping is best viewed as a form of social parasitism where one species manipulates the behaviour of the other to obtain a benefit,

according to Professor John Archer of the University of Central Lancashire. Cats and dogs can become "cuckoos in the nest" by diverting attention away from human friends, he said. They can even make it difficult for

you to form relationships. "In evolutiooary terms, pet ownership is a puzzling form of behaviour since it eotails provisioning another species in return for which there are

no apparent benefits." He put forward an alternative Darwinian that this could simply mean that explanation in which pets con humans with responses that

have traditionally assisted buman relationships. King Charles spaniels and Chihuahuas, for instance, are particularly attractive to us because we associate their

features - big eyes and chubby cheeks - with babies. "We are able to feel in part that we are responding in the way we would respond to bahies," said Professor

Owners also talk to their pets in baby talk oormally reserved for young childreo. Coupled with that, pets show affectioo in a nonfind attractive.

### All the smart people love cereal Tucking into a bowl of corn-flakes washed down with orange had their mental functions and mood measured before eating.

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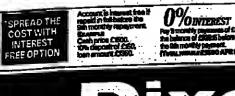
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conference in Edinburgh: "People feel better - cereals boost- most gloomy mood - with cer-Suicide

juice and coffee will boost your

IQ and put you in a better

mood, new research has found.

up to 10 per cent better in mem-

ory tests, in recording lists of words and in the ability to think

logically, the British Psycho-

logical Society's annual con-

In another study looking at

the long-term effects of eating

breakfast, cereals emerged as

the optimum food. Andrew

Smith, Professor of Psychology

at Bristol University, told the

ference heard yesterday.

Breakfast-eaters performed

notes may be key to saving others

Notes left by suicides could hold the key to stop other peo-ple taking their own lives, lead-ing psychologists were told

yesterday.

By identifying common features in the letters, it would be possible to draw up a list of symptoms to help identify potential suicides. Rory O'Connor of Oneen's

University, Belfast, told the British Psychological Society annual conference in Edinhurgh: "The suicide notes are the closest you will get to the state of the person prior to their

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He analysed 45 notes left by people who killed themselves in Northern Ireland in 1993-94. Mr O'Connor was given special permission to look at the notes - which are usually kept confidential - for the study. They varied considerably Some people left just a few lines while others wrote pages and

pages to several people. But in all of them, they indicated a sense of hopelessnes and "an unbearable psychological pain".

Those who were clinically depressed - 29 out of the total also felt out of control, were unable to look beyond their prob-lems and acted illogically. They felt let down because of

failed relationships and thought life was not worth living. People showing symptoms like these should be regarded as a suicide risk, he said, adding:

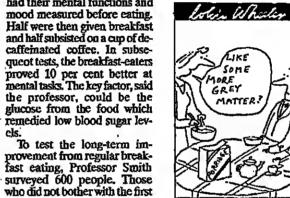
Having this list means that if a depressed person comes to me as a GP, then I will know what to look for. He admitted, however, that

it was more difficult to help someone who was not actually depressed although they went oo to commit suicide. Such people did not feel that their lives were out of control

and were less likely to seek help for their condition, such as going to their doctor. However, Mr O'Connor said it was still possible to help those people most likely to

take their own lives - people who were depressed.

"You cannot eliminate the problem, but you can reduce the suicide rate," he said.



meal of the day had the most those who eat cereal regularly negative effects - such as the

more-intelligeot people tended to eat hreakfast. In another study, Professor Smith said that those who had a high intake of caffeine performed most effieiently throughout the day. Workers who imbibed 200 milligrammes of caffeine or more - four cups of coffee or five cups of tea – had the highest level of

had a sunnier outlook and the

efficiency at the eod of the day. To complete the perfect breakfast, said Professor Smith, it could be time to look at or-

ange juice, as vitamin C had also been shown to have health benefits. A study in the British Medical Journal showed that cognitive ability in the elderly Of the elderly people tested, though the professor warned high vitamin C intake.

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# Rights of passage still closed

Simon Reeve

Ramblers from across Britain demonstrated near a beauty spot in Leicestershire vesterday as part of their campaign for new access laws to restore walkers' "right to roam".

Members of the 119,000-strong Ramblers Association protested next to High Sharpley a hill in north-west Leicestershire, and called oo the next government to change the law regarding the right to roam across

The owner of High Sharpley erected barbed wire around the hill, allegedly to discourage rambling, and locals reminisced yesterday about how they were allowed to walk on the land until the 1960s, when the current restrictions were introduced.

According to Kate Ashbrook, chairman of the association, High Sharpley is "typical" of hundreds of pieces of countryside that could be opened up to walkers.

Our proposed new law, giving the right to roam over mountain, moor, heath and woodland, would restore people's lost freedom," she said.



Access barred: Ramblers' Association chairman Kate Ashbrook encounters obstacles near Loughborough

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# This advert will argue that an illegal drug is actually good for some people

Paul McCann Media Correspondent

A major advertising campaign to have cannabis legalised for medical use is being launched to coincide with a British Medical Association report, due in the summer, that is likely to reo-

multiple sclerosis sufferess. Press advertisements have been produced by a group of volunteers from the advertising industry and a number of magazines have pledged free advertising space for them to run.

The campaign is hopeful that the advertisement will appear in magazines read by "opinion formers", such as the New Statesman and Spectator. An appeal has also gone out to national oewspapers to provide free space.

The advertisements, which were revealed by the advertising industry's magazine, Campaign, this week, have been created free by Chris Aldhouse, a former copywriter with Mc-Cann Erickson, for the Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics. He became interested in the campaign because of a

friendship with an MS sufferer. The ACT is also to get financial support from the multi-millionaire financier George Soros who has expressed support for such medical campaigns in the past.
The ACT, which has been

running for four years, bas been planning the campaign for six months. It wants to see doctors permitted to prescribe cannabis to sufferers of multiple sclerosis, glaucoma, Aids and sufferers of inflammatory diseases such as arthritis. The BMA, which has been

working on its report for 18 months, is thought likely to recommend that more trials

suddeo loss of balance ... and then cannabis changed my life." The advertisements also ask why heroin is legal in prescribed form hot not cannabis.

Dr Roger Pertwee, of the University of Aberdeen who has contributed to the BMA report, is planning a clinical trial into ommand trials of the drug for the effect of Nabilone on MS -sufferers. He believes that : legalisation for medicinal purposes should be allowed eve without comprehensive clinical evidence.

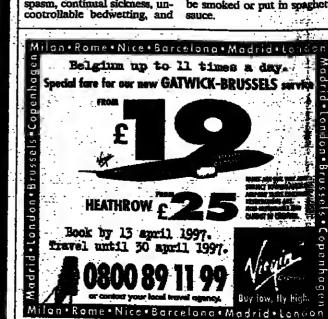
"In an ideal world you would wait for clinical trials, but patients are already self-medicating. They are risking their health with oon-medical supplies of cannabis as well as arrest. It would be much better for them to take their cannabis under medical super-

### 6 Patients are risking their health with non-medical supplies of cannabis 9

vision," he said. The ACT was founded by Clare Hodges, a Leeds mother- of-two who suffers from MS. It received a fillin last November when voters in California and Arizona approved bailot proposals that cannabis be legalised for medical treatment.

In the United States the issue has been driven by Aids pressure groups, such as the Cannabis Cultivators' Club in San Francisco. Cannabis has helped Aids patients recover their appetite and reverse weight-loss caused by the condition.

However, the ACT emphasises that it is campaigning for cannabis to be prescribed only medicinally by doctors. In California, prescriptions supplied by doctors allow the Cannabis Cultivators' Chib to sell it to be smoked or put in spaghetti



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are needed before cannabis treatment should be extended Cancer suffers in the United Kingdom can already be prescribed a synthetic form of cannabis, Nabilone, to help with nausea during motherapy. There are six advertisements. including the slogan: "Muscle. spasm, continual sickness, un-

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# THE INDEPENDENT

# Blair's devolution plans lose something in the translation

Tony Blair may have been schooled in Edinburgh, but he is as thoroughly English as any Westminster figure. When it comes to Scottish politics, he

doesn't speak the language. By insisting yesterday that sovereignty belongs solely to Westminster and comparing the tax-raising powers of his proposed Scottish parliament to an English parish council, Blair deor not, he slapped down a among the 58 Scottish Labour

state, sovereignty belongs to the people themselves; and that a Scottish parliament is an expression of national identity. Nine years ago, John Smith, the former Labour leader, Donald Dewar, Blair's chief whip and George Robertson, the pressed many Scots. Wittingly shadow Scottish Secretary, were

and Liberal Democrat MPs who signed the "Claim of Right" which declared "the sovereign right of the Scottish people to determine the form of government best suited to their needs." Compare Blair's assertion that "we are not devolving sovereignty ... that local services that Scotland is running, Scotland can make the laws for".

These may seem intriguing but tiny points. They are not. By



is-absolute theory of British government, Blair hints that he will be as centralist in Downing

leader. He implies that the Scottish parliament is a loaned. local affair, not to be taken too seriously, despite the self-conscious pomp of the Scottish Constitutional Convention.

There is a more general point. This was oot the tone of a natural reformer or decentralist: English reformers, as well as Scottish home-rulers, will be a little queasy.

Yet there is another, more favourable explanation. It is sim-

ply that, when discussing Scottish home rule, Blair thinks far more carefully and seriously about his English audience than his Scottish one. This is a natural and sen-sible thing for him to do. He is defending himself against the most dangerous attack, which comes from the south, and is hostile to devolution.

And if he is the man who actually delivers what has been talked about and promised by centre-left politicians since the

early years of this century, why would anyone quibble over the election-campaign semantics? So most of Labour's Scottish supporters will bite their tongues, and bide their time.

In the longer term, though, this sort of Westminster Unionism is just the language to help the rising Scottish Nationalists and drive some of the alreadydisaffected Scottish Labourites into their ranks. The big danger to Home Rule was always

Unionists and the socialist SNP against what is, in reality, the moderate position taken by Labour, the Liberal Democrats and the Scottish churches.

So though Blair has made his first election hunder we should not rash to judgement. In delivering devolution, he has a horribly difficult and intricate job ahead of him: the continuation of Britain probably de-

# SNP accuses Blair of Scottish sell-out

Stephen Goodwin

Scottish Nationalists seized on Tony Blair's assertion of English sovereignty over a Scottish Parliament as proof positive of a Labour retreat on devolution.

Mr Blair had "huried" the hopes of hundreds of thousands of people who believed Labour would deliver change, the SNP leader Alex Salmond said with evident relish as Mr Blair's snub to the Edinhurgh powers ignited the election campaign in Scotland.

For the SNP, struggling to make the nationalist voice heard above the two-party struggle, and the Scottish Tories, brought low by resignations and in-fighting, Mr Blair's remarks were

manna from heaven. But for Liberal Democrats who took part with Labour in the Scottish Constitutional Convention to draw up plans for a Scottish parliament, it was a more awkward moment.

Jim Wallace, leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, said Mr Blair's words "betrayed" his lack of any "gut conviction" that there should be a parliament in Edinburgh. He believed Labour was

committed to a parliament, but the best guarantee that one would be delivered was to vote in a strong contingent of Lib-Dem MPs.

Launching the party's Scot-tish manifesto, Mr Wallace was sharply critical of Mr Blair's neutering of the proposed power to vary tax rates in Scotland by up to 3p in the pound. The ige not to raise basic or standard rate of income tax for five

years applied to Scotland as well as England, Mr Blair had said. But Mr Wallace said the Scottish people had a right to decide through the ballot hox whether they wanted the parliament to vary taxes.

"The tax powers of a Scottish parliament are every hit as much an issue of democracy as they are of taxation," he said. "Mr Blair is showing more interest in middle-England voters than in Scottish democracy."

the self-denying ordinance had "shot the Tory fox on tax", Mr Wallace suggested a Scottish Parliament might want to go it alone on the Liberal Democrat proposal for an extra 1p in the pound on tax to pay for education improvements.

Michael Forsyth, Secretary of State for Scotland, said Mr Blair had made a "laughing stock of Liberal Democrats who were already spending the tartan tax, and had cast adrift his supporters in Scotland.

The Scottish Constitutional Convection worked for six years and in six minutes Tony Blair has shredded its proposals. The whole devolution fiasco is a mess of cootradictions and de-

ceptions," Mr Forsyth said. Mr Salmond said the Labour leader had shown his "contempt and derision" for the Scottish people.

policy is now exposed by Blair for what it always has been - a deceit which would return to Edinburgh less power than an English parish council has, and leave all the decision-making then - as now - with English

# M&S doorway becomes an official residence



# to join council's electoral register

Ben Summers

The Doorway, Marks & Speocer, Rampani Horse Street, Norwich Paul Ashwell's city-address is not one of the most prestigious in the country. But it has been recorded as his official residence in the electoral register so that he

can vote in the general election. Two of the city's homeless "New Labour's devolution have registered with the council in time to vote on 1 May, with the second giving her permanent address as The Caravan, Belvoir Street Car Park, Norwich. "It's a fuodameotal mat-ter of principle," said John Turner, Norwich's assistant director of law and administra-

tion. "Is our job to enfranchise or disenfranchise? I think I

take the former view." The city council has had to adapt its registration process, Mr Turner explains. "We have printed blank forms, and made them freely available through a variety of outlets, including homeless charities in the city.

Once a homeless person has picked up a form, "the procedure is exactly the same for you and I. So long as they put an address where they say they reside, it will be processed in exactly the same way as any other form," he said. Homelessness has become a

hig issue in the United Kingdom over the past 20 years, but only recently has the electoral system begun to acknowledge homeless people as a feature of the elec-

toral landscape.
A Home Office working party reported in 1995 that the "ab-sence of bricks and mortar" should oot disqualify an address

from being registered. In 1996, a further precedent was set when a homeless man in Cornwall took Penwith District Council to court after it refused to accept a local day centre as his address, effectively denying him a place on the electoral register. Judge Anthony Thompsoo QC reversed the council's decision, saying: "It cannot be right that simply because a person is homeless be

Des Res: The Marks & Spencer doorway (top), which is registered as Paul Ashwell's residence for voting purposes. Above: The details recorded on computer Photographs: Simon Hadley

MARKS & SPEHCER DOORWAY

is deprived of the right to vote." Manchester City Council established a scheme to encourage rough sleepers to register in 1995, but few signed up. Many said that gaining a vote was low oo their priority list. Others

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PROPERTY

feared the consequences of registering their name and location together with their homeless status. But in Norwich, the couocil

CRITERIA: RAMPANT HORSE STREET

hopes that its "oo-homes-forvotes" scheme will benefit from

Voters' minds clouded by

the publicity attracted by the general election. "I guess that for next year's council elections, we might have considerably more people registering, said Mr Turner, "It's a question of small beginnings."

# Battle hots up over tax plans

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

The Conservatives, Labour and the Liberal Democrats were reduced to a form of political mud-wrestling over their respective tax plans vesterday. The day's accusations began

press conference slogan of the day was: "Tory tax cuts in April. Labour tax rises in July." But while Mr Major accused Labour of harbouring secret tax plans, there was again no answer to the question - for the fourth.

day running - as to whether an-other Conservative government

would further extend or in-

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pre-ferred to concentrate his attack oo Labour's so-called black hole - the gap between its speoding commitmeots and its funding, partly exposed by the with the Conservatives, whose money that might have been raised from privatisation projects in the second year of a Labour government.

That second-year gap cur-rently runs to £1.5bn, but Alistair Darling, Labour's Treasury spokesman, promptly retaliated, asking the Chancellor: "Which revenue-raising pri-

himself to, apart from air traffic control, to raise £1.5bn in the taxpayers."

£100,000 would pay a top taxrate of 50p, raising £1.4bn. Of fic control, to raise £1.5bn in the

second year of government?"

Mr Clarke said he had "a pretty good idea" what other privatisations could be launched to raise the rest of the missing £1.5bn, but he was not going to identify them. Attention theo switched to

the Liberal Democrat manifesto, which included a paragraph, saying: "We will take nearly 500,000 low-carners out of income tax altogether by raising tax thresholds. This will provide lower taxes and new incentives to work, while cutting

vatisations has he committed the benefits bill and reducing tax able income of more than

Challenged by The Independent about that statement when the party was pledged to increase the rate by a penny, to 24p in the pound. Paddy Ashdown suggested that all taxpayers would benefit from the lifting of the tax threshold by £200 - before they

paid the extra penny. The calculations were complex, but he later told the BBC radio's World at One programme: "The average taxpayer is paying more tax. Under the Liberal Democrat

lift the tax threshold by £200, taking 470,000 people out of tax completely. Of the remaining 25million taxpayers, the esti-mated 12.5 million earning up to about £12,945 would be better off, or no worse off, and the other 12.5 million would make a contribution towards extra finance for education. Mr Ashdown said those on

that, £1.2bn would be used to

average earnings of £19,000 would pay an extra £1.23 a week, while those on £38,000 plans, 140,000 people with taxwould pay an extra £2.70.

# deep-rooted suspicion A cautious reaction to a cau-

Michael Streeter

tions manifesto. Tony Blair's "covenant" with the people earned a mixed reception in Mondeo Land yesterday, the swathe of country across the central regions of England. where new Labour has to pick un one-time Thatcherite voters to win the election.

His plea for "honest politics" struck a chord with some of The Independent's group of disaffected Tory voters in Redditch and the modest Labour manifesto seemed to catch the mood better than the Tories' lastminute ciutch of new policies.

For these voters, the tedium is the message. But there was still deep scepticism about the Labour pledge not to raise headline tax rates and doubts that Mr Blair's vision of honest politics could survive under the pressures of office.

Paramedic Lionel Baird, 52, who is likely to switch to new Labour, found the manifesto's cantion "refreshing". He said: "It's better to have some honesty rather than politicians let- home, the manifesto's "vague-



in power, saying 'that's not quite what we meant'." However, he had reservations about how even the modest proposals could be financed.

Engineer Mark Redfearn. 29, another likely switcher, saw the tone of the Labour document as a welcome change, applauding its emphasis on education: The most important thing for us is getting our two children a decent education." He found Mr Blair trustworthy, but added: "You have to be wary of all politicians."

For former British gas manager Roger Prost, the main virtue was the lack of bold promises. "I think [politicians] have got a lot of bridges to build with the public A lot of people I speak to say they wouldn't buy a sec-ond hand car from a politician." "But for Susan Lovett, 38, a sales consultant now looking after her two young children at has left out more than he has put in. Where is the money going to come from?"

Supermarket worker Denise Sparkes, 35, also queried how Labour would fund its proposals and found "no great vision" to attract her.

Steven Marriott, 28, a radio engineer, is still undecided after the two main manifestos and believes both Tony Blair and John Major are avoiding hard truths, neatly reflecting the views of Paddy Ashdown's at yesterday's Liberal Democrat manifesto launch. They are go-ing to have to put up taxes to do what they say, and they are being dishonest with us about that," said Mr Marriott.

He was unsure whether to trust Mr Blair, adding: "You don't know what they're like un-

til they get in power."

The likely impact of power on
Mr Blair also concerned toolmaker Andrew Osciak, 45, who said: "They all change, don't they?" But he thought the Labour leader had shown himself tougher and more convincing than Mr Major and liked Mr Blair's emphasis on ting things go by the board when oess" was ominous. "Mr Blair jobs and education,

# US author hot on Labour trail

Steve Boggan

If Tony Blair thought it was bad being shadowed on his campaign bus by dozens of British journalists, he will not have been cheered up by the arrival of the New Yorker's correspondent, Joe Klein.

Mr Klein, aged 50, became masked as the anonymous leading to Mr Klein's eventual

author of the best-selling novel, Primary Colors.

In that novel, the author, "Anonymous" wrote with alarming detail about the election campaign of Jack Stanton - a thinly-disguised Bill Clinton - and the antics of his staff.

The book, which has so far netted Mr Klein royalties estiknown as the bate noire of mated at \$6m (about £4m) American politics after he was caused a furore in Washington,

real 1992 campaign trail with Mr Clinton for Newsweek magazine.

He arrived on Mr Blair's campaign trail two days ago to write a 10,000-word comparisoo of the British and Americao campaign styles - hut he will. like British journalists, not be allowed anything like the kind of access American journalists enjoyed with Mr Clinton.

Asked whether he was plan-

unmasking. He had been on the ning to write a novel on the British campaign, he said no. But he had already been amused by the arrival on Thursday of the Tory chicken. 'You should have seen our

campaign in Missouri in 1988," he said. "A whole barnyard menagerie turned up to confront [Michael] Dukakis because the Republicans put it out that he was in favour of repealing the laws against sodomy ..."



SATURAL WELLS

# Major on offensive at the Albert Hall



True blue: Tory faithful queuing for the flag-waving extravaganza held yesterday at the Albert Hall in Kensington, London

More Union flags than the Last Night of the Proms were waved at the Royal Albert Hall last night for a Conservative morale-boosting rally by John

Mr Major's speech, attacking Labour for the "arrogance of socialism", was delayed by the bomb alerts at some Londoo mainline railway stations.

Brian Mawhinney, the chairman of the Conservative Party, told the revellers: "A lot of people are planning to be here have been delayed. They are still coming, hut out of courtesy to them, you would not mind a de-

# Colin Brown sees a spectacle to match the Proms Last Night

The Prime Minister re-drafted his speech to go on the offensive against Tony Blair over Labour's disarray on Scottish devolution on the Prime Minister's trip hack from Southampton, where he was out campaigning in the Tory mar-

He accused Mr Blair of "hypocrisy" for saying one thing and doing another, over the choice of the Oratory for his children, although Labour was opposed to an expansion of

posed in the Tory election man- Proms. Mr Blair's name was

That message weot down well on the campaign trail, and got the loudest cheers earlier in the week when Mr Major jousted with the hecklers in Carlisle market square from a new high-tech "soap box" attached to his battle bus.

It was enough to send the party faithful into the kind of ecstatic applause normally reserved at the Albert Hall for the last strains of "Land of Hope "opt-out" schools, which is pro- and Glory" in the finale of the

greeted with shoots of "chicken" by rowdy young Tory sup-

The party had bused in more than 2,000 supporters for one of the biggest political rallies in Britain since the ill-fated Labour rally in Sheffield, when Labour, under Neil Kinnock, lost the 1992 election.

The spectacle of jingoistic cel-ebration risked having the same effect as the Sheffield rally oo Labour's chances,

Major had warned Labour that it's policy on Scotland would risk raising nationalism in England. But the Conservative raily was a celebration of British nation-

One woman fan of John Major sported a knitted doll of the Prime Minister in shades of grey wool, with a garland of union flags in her hair.

But Mohammad Khalid, owner of the Kohinoor restanrant in Uford, said the flags were "beautiful". He promised the lo-Only a few hours before, Mr cal Tory MP, Sir Neil Thorne,

Photograph: Tom Pilston

A 17-year-old studeot, Jon-jo MaeNamara, from Rich-mond Yurkshire, said: "We are

country and we love our party. ability to let the people know what we have achieved."

they would have a celebration with world-class Indian musicians at the Albert Hall when they won.

the party of the Union. The Unioo Jack is as much a part of the Conservative Party as it is everyone in Britain. We love our

Lord Archer, the novelist, who acted as the warm-up act for the Prime Minister, said: "If we have a weakness, it is not our inability to achieve - it's our in-

# **Tories** pin their hopes on undecided

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

John Major last night said he's counting on the "don't knows" to rescue the Tories from defeat on polling day. The Prime Minister went

angling for the floating voter at a 300-year-old pub on the River Hamble, Southampton, and claimed the don't knows were Conservatives whn would 'come home" on 1 May.

I think the don't knows are beginning to harden up," said Mr Major. "There are an awful lot of people out there who have not committed themselves."

The don't knows were the reason why Mr Major remains optimistic, in the face of all the opining poll evidence, that the fories still have a chance. One poll this week showing a lead of more than 20 points für Labour excluded 14% of don't knows. Mr Maior may take some scraps nf comfort from the doo't knows, but at the moment, they are likely to make the difference merely between defeat and

"If the doo't knows were gning tn vote Labour they wouldn't be don't knows. They would have made up their minds a long time ago.

"The doo't knows are Cooservatives who are waiting for the right reasons to come home. Our manifesto gives them the reason. I expect they will need a bit of woong but I expect and hope they will come home and we will win this election," he said.

Declaring the opinion polls a millioo miles adrift". Mr yachting haven at Hamhle, in the Eastleigh constituency the Tories lost in a by-election to the Liberal Democrats, and met local anglers worried about Labour's ban nn cruel sports.

There was abundant evidence wherever he went of the dnn't knows. At Southampton Airport Ruth Quigley, 49, said she and her 81-year-nid mother, who shares the same birthday as Mr Majnr, were undecided even though her mother had been a confirmed Major fan since he had sent her a hirthday card from Downing

Street.
"I have so many friends saying the same thing," she said,
"Even my mother who is an urdent John Major fan is

The reasons include insecurity about unemploymeot. When you go to the job shop. you are treated like a national insurance oumber. I would like to he giveo personalised appointments. Penple like me are nnt too nid at 49 but we dnn't want to be stuck on government training courses with 19-yearold kids."

Annther don't know, Alex Brandon, 33, is opening a job recruitment agency through the Internet. She told Mr Major he could make use of Recruitment Revolution, based in Bournemouth, if he was out of a job on 1 May. He replied: "I

won't be oceding that madam."
However, if the don't knows fail to come to his rescue, Ms. Brandoo said he would be unemployed for loog. "He would "a million miles adrift", Mr make a good recruitment Major did a walkabout in the consultant, she said.

# while Blair revels in Victoria Hall ovation

## **Steve Boggan** attended a Labour rally aimed at-wooing

Tory waverers

While thousands of flag-waving Tories were enjoying a rousing beano at the Royal Albert Hall in London (capacity 5,500), Tony Blair was at the Victoria Hall in Kidsgrove, Staffordshire (capacity 400), taking his message to the front line. . . .

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lity - Street Sea

It was hilled as Tony versus the Tory waverers, an opportu-nity to upstage John Major by showing that small is beautiful, but it was spoilt slightly by the fact that hardly any Conservatives showed up.
Instead, hundreds of die-

hard Labour supporters arrived and gave him a standing ovation before he spoke his first words - which, rather embarrassingly, were: "We deliberately draw a contrast with the Conservatives in the Albert Hall in Londoo. They are preaching to the converted. I am here persuading those whn have not been converted ..." Nevertheless, it was a worth-

while exercise in a constituency - Staffordshire Moorlands which is held by the Tories, but which should swing to Labour simply because of boundary changes. And it gave Labour the apportunity to liken the Tory rallies – and their inherent emphasis on patriotism - to their own disastrous triumphalism in Sheffield at the last election.

"I am a patrint," said Mr Blair. "I love Britain and am strong. That there is such a thing



Preaching to the converted: Tony Blatr addressing yesterday's raily of mainly Labour supporters in Kidsgrove Photograph: Martin Rickett/Newsteam

proud to be British. And I will tell you what being a patriot means to me. Patriotism is not just about mnuthing words, or waving the flag. It is about what is in your heart.

"It is about the nature of the society you want to build. It is about knowing that for a nation

as society. That there must be a place within it for the weak as well as the strong. A Britain for the many, not the few."

Afterwards, aides said they had tried to attract more wavering Tories by placing advertisements in the local paper. We wanted to show that while the Tories are going in for seven of these huge rallies, which seem to be aimed

at boosting party morale, Tony wants to get out there meeting people and asking for their votes," said one aide. "A couple of weeks ago, the Conservatives said Mr Major was going to get on his soap box and talk to the people. Now they're presenting him as a big presidential style candidate. We wouldn't be so arrogant. We don't take anyone's

vote for granted." So, were the few Conservatives who did attend turned on to Labour? June Ross, a 59-year-old retired schoolteacher from Stoke-on-Trent, was. Before the meeting, she said she had been turned off the Tories by sleaze. "They unly want to line their own pockets," she said. After the mee said: "I will vote for him. He is

a very personable man and I was impressed by his sincerity and the fact that he won't make promises he can't deliver ... But Jack Hartley, 64, a retired civil servant, was not so easily won over. "I'm still undecided," he said. "He seems very articulate, but he came across as a bit of a political Del Boy. That's not unusual, mind -that's how I think of all politicians."

# Labour target seats may buck national trend

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Labour will have an uphill battle to win its target seats because they may be more Tory-leaning than other areas, an analysis by a leading merchant bank has concluded.

A report for clients of SBC Warburg coocluded that Labour would win the election with a majority of hetween 19 and 30 seats, just enough to prevent the City from becoming nervous that the oew government might not stay the course. Stephen Yorke, the bank's

head of political research, said that at the last election many of the seats Labour needs to win went against the national trend. The Tories could unexpectedly hang un to some of their marginals, he concluded.

Mr Yorke's report told the bank's clients not to over-invest in sterling in the next few weeks in case a hung parliament makes the markets jittery.

He said demographic trends can buck the polls, as they did in London at the last election, when votes swung away from Labour towards the Conservatives in some key seats. Local radin and television coupled with increasingly so-

phisticated campaign techniques had made people more aware of their MPs and more likely to support them, he said. Mr Yorke also said the long

campaign and a general treod towards lower turn-outs might act against Labour, which tended to do best when turn-outs are high. He added that voters could, and did, change their minds at the last moment.

"As the dreaded voting moment arrives, fear becomes a more powerful emution than hope. If one examines the post-1979 political landscape, the UK is a two-election culture: general elections and everything else," his report said.

The report compared this election with that of 1964, when a dynamie ynung Labour leader, Harold Wilsoo, camaigned on the theme of "Time for a change" after 13 years of Tory rule. The Tory party was mired in scandal, having been hit hard by the Profumo affair, and its leader, Alec Douglas-Hnme, was seen as weak and ineffective.

During the campaign, he said, the Conservatives successfully frightened the electorate about the risks of change and Wilson won by nnly five

# THE HURRIED VOTER'S GUIDE

### THE CAMPAIGN

The event of the day was the launch of the Liberal Democrats' manifesto, though it was, overshadowed by arguments about Labour's. plans for Scotland and on tax. The Liberal Democrats renewed their

promise of £2bn per year for education, to be raised by putting a penny on the basic rate of income tex, and £200m a year for the health service by putting an extra five pence on the price of a packet of cigarettes. .

They also promised to recruit more doctors and nurses, cut hospital waiting lists and restore free dental and eye checks. On the environment, the party would increase taxes on pollution but would cut tex to £10 on cars under 1600cc. Every government policy. would have an environmental objective built h. On crime, the Liberal Democrats plan to put 3,000 more police efficers on the best While the Conservatives again concentrated on attacking Labour, Tony Blair was: teumching his purty's Scottish manifesto. Its. central plank was the party's plan for devolution, and the promise of a referendum on the subject "as quickly as possible" after polling day. The Labour leader also promised that a windfall tax on privatised utilities would help 25,000 young Scots of benefit and into work.

### KEY ARGUMENTS

Blair came under fire after an interview In the Scotsman in which he compared the powers of a Scottish parliament to those of a parish council. He told the paper. The powers are like

those of any local authority. Powers that are constitutionally there can be used, but the Scottish Labour Party has no plans to raise income tax, and once the power is given it is like any perish council, it's got the right to

Major described Blair's remarks as "patronising and extraordinarity inaccurate," while the Scottish National Party leader, Alex Salmond, said Blair had exposed the weakness of his devolution plans: "What he has done is to confirm that England rules OK under devolution." Pressed on whether Wastminster would be able to veto a Scottleh perliament'a tex-raising powers, Blair did not answer. Major also furned his fire on Labour's tax plans, saying that Conservative tax cuts coming into force this week would be reversed by July if the party won

power. Maenwhile, Paddy Ashdown launched the Liberal menifesto, calling for an end to fatalism in British politics and a new belief that things could change.

# GOOD DAY

Education and Employment Secretary causes was able to play the role of a policymaker standing firm against rowdy trade unionists at the NASUWT conference in Bournemouth. To boos and hisses, she told the teachers that there was "never any excuse for a professional person to strike." She caused more anger by outlining a history of Tory "fair trade-union legislation," and later described the whole event as "rather jolly."



to compare the powers of a Scottish parliament to those of a parish council. Nor would be say if he would overrule an Edinburgh parliament which wanted to put up income tax. This was a reminder of an earlier Scotsman interview when he appeared not to know about the Claim of Right signed by Scots Labour MPs asserting their nation's right to decide how it will be governed itself.

### ONE TO REMEMBER

Richard Branson told Railway Magazine that he thought Labour was "secretly relieved" about railway privatisation. Branson, who now runs two train companies, said that Labour would not have sold off the railways themselves. "I believe that secretly, they are quite relieved it's happened," he said. "I therefore don't think they'll do much to rock the boat." He added that a Labour election victory was "not something that wordes me too much."

# HOGWASH



The millennium is mentioned all the main parties' manifestos, and its occurrence always marks a passage of pseudo-inspirational hogwash. Every vote and every seat we win will ensure that in the next Parliament Britain can at last face up to the challenge, as we enter the next millennium". A classic example from Paddy Ashdown, set out in the Liberal

Democrat manifesto yesterday,

#### THE OTHER PARTIES The Monster Raving Loony Party announced that they are likely to field more than the magic 50 candidates - entitling them to a

party political broadcast. Just as the Natural Law Party shot to fame in the 1992 general election campaign with their broadcast about the possibilities for Yogic

Flying' and transcendental meditation, the Monster Raving Loony party will be using their air-time to push their radical policies. According to party chairman Alan Hope, their plans include proposals to move the beef mountain to the South Sandwich Islands and a commitment to turn butter mountains into skl slopes.

# MEDIA STAR



The media spottight was turned on beards yesterday, when a flustered Tony Blair struggled at his morning press conference to justify his comments about devolution in the Scotsman. Unable to remember the names of the journalists questioning him, he referred to them as "the beard on the left" and "the beard on the right." The Labour leader may wish he had shown the bearded community a fittle more respect, if he wins on May 1st, he is committed to appointing three bearded men (Frank Dobson, Robin Cook and David Blunkett) to the Cabinet, the first since Skiney Webb in 1930.

# Manifesto details: Big idea is to fund £2bn education programme with 1p rise in basic income tax Lib-Dems focus on improving schools

The Liberal Democrats' big idea is to pump £2bn per year into the education service, funded by a penny on the basic rate of income tax. The following is an edited version of their manifesto.

#### Education

Extra money raised for education would be spent on doubling the amount of cash available for books and equipment within a year, reducing primary school class sizes to less than 30, investing £500m in huildings' maintenance over five years and giving adults more chances

The Liberal Democrats also promise high-quality early-years' education for all three and fouryear-olds whose pareots want it, and the scrapping of the Tories' nursery voucher scheme.

The party wants to set up a General Teaching Council, strengthen the school inspection system, support teachers to maintain discipline and launch a national Truancy Watch scheme. The National Curriculum would be replaced with a more flexible Minimum Curriculum Entitlemeot.

All major faith groups would be allowed to establish publiclyfunded schools if they had sufficient community support, and independent schools would have to work with state schools if they wanted state funding.

There would be more access to further education, and the Student Loans Scheme for higher education would be replaced with a repayment scheme linked to earnings. The party also proposes that all 16to 19-year-olds would receive



On the record: Paddy Ashdown (centre) outlining his party's manifesto during an interview with John Humphrys on BBC Radio 4's Today programme yesterday. Photograph: John Voos

would be cut. Effective public-

training a week.

#### The economy

Priorities would be to provide stability, to encourage loog-

the equivalent of two days' term investment and to promote eoterprise and small business. The Bank of England would become an independent UK Reserve Bank, charged with keeping inflatioo low aod accountable to Parliament.

If you've got a bigger than average garden then you'll be

interested in Flyma's range of bigger than normal mowers.

Available as either push or self propelled, they all have a large

18 inch cutting width, powerful petrol engines and 50 litre grass.

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sized mowers, starting at around £179.99 and coming with a 10

year bodywork guarantee. For more information fly around to your

nearest stockist. Freephone 0800 174 791 to find out where they are.

Borrowing should not ex- promoted, and councils' borceed total investment, and the government would he account-Jobs able to Parliament for keeping to that rule. Wasteful spending

rowing would be curtailed.

Ucemployment benefits would private partnerships would be be turned into "working bene-

fits" paid to employers to recruit dies and use the money to buy and train people, Investment in the infrastructure, promotion of th the infrastructure, promotion of small businesses and energy conservation will create hundreds of thousands of jobs.

#### Business

Banks will be encouraged to develop new sources of private finance for small and medium businesses as well as new codes of banking practice. Red tape will be cut by stopping European institutions interfering and Whitehall departments from adding their own new rules to the European ones.

Regional development agencies would foster partnerships between business and local authorities, tourism would be promoted and employees would be given new rights. Firms would have to publish information on

### industrial relations

The benefits of the Social Chapter of the Maastricht Treaty would be extended to all UK employees, but new rules which cessarily harm job opporrunioes would be resisted.

Employees would be giveo new rights to consultation and participation in decisions. Proft-sharing and share-ownership schemes would be encouraged.

### Consumers

Ombudsmen schemes would help customers to get redress if they had complaints, and product standards and labelling would be improved. Food products with genetically modified ingre-dients would be clearly labelled. An Office of Utility Regulation would be set up, and utili-ties would be asked to involve their customers in ownership and control of their compa nies. Independent regulation of financial services would be improved. The Mocopolies and merged with the Office of Fair

#### Trading to promote competition. The Environment

Taxes oo pollution would be increased while income tax was cut. Every government policy would have environmental ob jectives built into it, and tough targets would be set to cut energy waste, reduce traffic congestion and control pollution.

Carboo dioxide emissions

would be cut by 30 per cent from the 1990 level within 15 years. Central and local government would have to meet targets for sustainability and biodiversity. A separate department for environment and energy policy would be set up, and the Environment Agency would be given stronger powers to enforce

compliance with the law. Animal welfare would be promoted through a dog registration scheme, new rules on transporting live animals and a ban on animal testing for cosmetics, weapons and tobacco. A free vote oo hunting would be held in the Commons.

### Transport

Public transport would be ex-panded through partnerships with the private sector. London Underground would remain in public ownership but would be given the right to seek private finance for new investment.

Freight on the railways would be trebled and passengers doubled by 2010. Railtrack would be given targets for investment, and if it failed the government would withhold public subsifor cars up to 1600cc, but petrol duty would go up by 4p a litre.

#### Housing

Houses would be built through public-private partnerships, and mortgage interest tax relief will be replaced with a first-time buy-Mortgage Benefit. Over time, housing benefit for people renting would become part of the same system. By 2000, no one would be forced to sleep on the streets. Councils would be made to set up self-funding rent deposit schemes to help homeless people into private bousing.

Rules forcing under-25s on benefit to live in shared houses would be scrapped.

### Crime

An extra 3,000 police officers would be put on the beat within a year. Young offenders would be made to repay their debt to society, and citizens' service would help them to get involved in crime prevention

The Crown Prosecution Service will be overhauled and the use of community sentences encouraged in order to ensure that no one goes to prison unless it is essential to the public. A Royal Commission will be set up to tackle the problem of drugs.

### Rural communities

The Liberal Democrats would work to replace the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy and would set up an independent Food Commission. Village schools and shops would be supported and rural areas would be helped through more affordable housing and better transport.

### Arts and media

Media monopolies would be tackled, the BBC would be protected, and the National Lonery would be used to improve access to the arts. Film production in Britain would be

### Health

The party would increase funding for the NHS by £540m a year, maintaining it as a comprehensive service free at the point of need and funded primarily from taration. The aim would be to make the NHS more accountable and begin a shift towards preventive medicine.

Tobacco advertising and promotion would be banned. The party would make the Health Education Authority "truly independent" and free to criticise government policy. A Food Commission, independent of the agriculture ministry, would seek to ensure that food was healthy and safe; £200m would be invested each year to recruit more staff for frontline care. This would be enough for 10,000 extra nurses or 5,000 more doctors.

The party would also aim to cut hospital waiting lists to a maximum of six months over three years. There would be an end to the "two-tier" service in which treatment depends on the type of GP people go to. Free eye and dental checks would he restored. A National Inspectorate for Health and Social Care would be established to improve standards and pro-

### mote patients' interests. Political Reform

The aim would be to restore trust in British politics by end-freeze prescription charges.

people's rights and freedoms. A Bill of Rights would be passed and as a first step the European Convention on Human Rights would be incorporated into UK law. A Human Rights Commission would be set up to protect individual rights and a Ministry of Justice would be established. The party opposes the introduction of identity cards.

There would be a Freedom of Information Act establishing a citizen'a right to know. Ucnecessary quangos would be scrapped and there would be ter use of referendums.

Outdated institutions would need to be modernised, giving a bigger say to Britain's nations, regions and local communities. There would be home rule for Scotland and Wales and regional decision-making in England would be made more accountable

Proportional representation would be introduced and there would be reforms to Parliament. Higher standards of conduct for politicians would be expected. There would be a fixed parliamentary term of four years.

The number of MPs in the Commons would be cut by 200 a third - and the Lords would he transformed into a predominantly elected chamber. In Northern Ireland there would be a power-sharing executive to ensure a respect for individual liberties.

#### Opportunities

Individual self-reliance would be promoted, strengthening equality for all before the law. In employment the party would work for a society that cherishes diversity. There would be more help for the long-term unemployed to get them back into work and welfare system would be modernised to provide a more effective safety net for the disadvantaged, to eccourage work without compolsion and to widen opportunities.

For older people there would be a minimum standard of living in retirement and there would be a "flexible decade of retirement" between the ages of

For younger people there would be new rights and new responsibilities. All those between the ages of 16 and 19 would have the opportunity to work, learn, train or take a place on a new Citizen's Service where two years work for the community would be offered.

Families would benefit from a new system in which Income Support and Family Credit would be replaced by a simpler and more efficient Low Income Benefit. That would help people back to work.

Employers would face tougher obligations to introduce equal opportunities and the pensions system would be made fairer to women. Compreheosive legislation would be passed to ensure civil rights for disabled people. Britain would play a leading role in strengthening European legislation banning discrimination against ethnic minorities. Lesbians and gay men would enjoy equality before the law.

### Foreign Policy

Britain oceds to play a leading role in shaping Europe, de-mocratising its institutions and strengthening its role as a promoter of prosperity, peace and security. Any major changes in Britain's relationship with Europe would have to be eodorsed in a refereodum. A plebiscite would have to endorse a single currency, but the party believes that it would bring low inflatioo and low interest

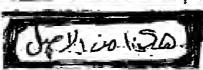
A copy of the party's Annual Tax Contract would be delivered to each household following the Budget each year. There would be no taxation without explanation, no promises unless they have been costed and no more

tax without tackling waste. Under the banner "fair tax for all" the party would want to ensure that everyone contributes according to their ability to pay and that the burden is fairly shared. It would aim to take more of those on low incomes out of tax completely. There would be a clampdown

on tax avoidance and evasion. The basic rate of income tax would increase from 23p to 24p in the pound to help finance investment in education. The starting rate for the payment of taxation would increase by £200 to £4,245. This cut would be paid for by introducing new rate of income tax of 50 per cent payable on income over £100,000 a year.

A CONTRACTOR BANKS OF THE STATE OF THE STATE

Half a million people would be freed from taxation altogether. Five pence would be put on a packet of cigarettes, which would be used to restore free eye and dental checks and



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Foreign Policy 46 - 100

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esponsibility of the 30-strong and constitutional reform, radical but pragmatic".

document. Barrie Clement reports Liberal Democrat policy com- rather the "outcomes", such as mittee and the parliamentary

party, but there was an "inner Cabinet" of three with the greatest degree of influence. Apart from Mr Ashdown, who chairs the policy commit-About two years ago, Alan tee. Lord Wallace of Saltaire took the role of rapporteur

and distilled the views of party

members. Neil Stockley, head of policy, was responsible for its intellectual respectability. There was an attempt to emphasise practicality. According tn party sources, the 1992 election manifesto was concerned health was vaguely left-wing, with processes, such as Europe. The preferred formulation is

smaller class sizes and shorter hospital waiting lists, which formed the centrepiece of yesterday's document. Education and health were the "big ideas".

Although the party prefers not to see itself on the right-left political spectrum, Liberal Democrat infficials conceded that its preoccupation with the need for competition in the economy could be described as right-wing while its call for increased taxation to pay for im-provements in education and

drafts of the document have been presented to the policy committee and the party's parliamentary representatives, where it has been amended. There was also consultation with outside research organisations and trade associations.

Members get a look-in, according to party officials. Their representatives at annual conferences elect more than half the policy committee, the other half being co-opted wor-thies and ex officio party figures. The 4,000 representatives at the annual conferences also

engage in debates over policy papers which feed into the manifesto. Two weeks ago it was given the final spit and polish by the policy committee.

# **Bold pledges** to tax rich,

but numbers do not add up

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

The Liberal Democrats' manifesto presents economic policies that appear to have the courage of Labour's convictions.

Here is an ostentatiously confronts the painful truths about the limits on government and which makes some difficult choices about taxing the rich in order to alleviate the lot

So, yesterday's manifestn promised independence for the Bank of England, in the context of membership of the single European currency.

Interest rate decisions would be taken out of the political sphere, subject to the Bank's accountability to Parliament for delivering low inflation. The document also commit-

ted the Liberal Democrats, like Labour, to the tough "golden rule" for public borrowing. Government spending would only he allowed to exceed rev-

an amount which was equal to public-sector investment. Setting such admirably clear rules for interest rates and government borrowing leaves the party with no option but to in order to spend more money

training The Liberal Democrats are the only party to say unequivocally that they would raise in-

on its priority - education and

Full marks to Paddy Ashdown for honesty in saying that taxes will have to rise, but the

have to fork out an extra £4 a

near-£2bn a year in extra revenues would not go far in the Nor has the party - any more than Labour - spelt nut how it would fill the £1.5bn gap in pub-lic finances which will he

opened up by halting the pritisation programme. Yesterday's manifestn went a step further, by promising in-come redistribution, a theme addressed more explicitly here

than in Labour's manifesto. What it does not do is spell out the limits to reducing inequality through the tax system: the Liberal Democrats' painful truths turn nut to be less honest than Labour's more modest

proposals.
The Liberal Democrats would introduce a top rate of tax of 50p in the pound for people earning more than £100,000 a enues, nn average over the course of the husiness cycle, by year, to pay for increased income tax thresholds that would take some low-paid people nut of the tax net altogether and reduce income tax for the majority of taxpayers.

It sounds radical stuff, until you cranch through the numbers. According to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, the poorest tenth of households in the country would gain on average 5 pence a week from the these tax stretch their honesty to breakproposals, and the next four-tenths up would gain between their proposal for a long-term 10p and 20p. Everybody in the shift from taxing wealth-creation

up to £11 a week at the very top. Paul Johnson, a researcher a to spend an awful lot of money to make people at the bottom of the income distribution significantly better off." There are tens of millions of people on low incomes compared with the 140,000 taxpayers on more

than £100,000 a year who would be expected to stump up. The Liberal Democrats have one other tax wheeze - switching the burden of taxation from jobs and spending to pollution and the depletion of natural resources. They also promise to use new national indicators of well-being, which include measures of the quality of life and environmental sustainability,

It is hard to argue with such painless environmentalism reduce tax on individuals and let the polluter pay. But here again, the manifesta ignores the problems of scale.

The taxes that raise the most government revenues – income tax. VAT and corporation tax draw on an enormous tax base. Green tax rates would need to be exorbitantly high to raise a similar amount of revenue, because we spend far less on polluting activities, such as driving, than the consumer spending total on which VAT is levied, for

the spending would only dent

A penny on the basic rate, to the income distribution to taking it to 24p, would raise just the estimated £3.2bn backlog on taking it to 24p, would raise just the income distribution to taking it to 24p, would raise just the income distribution would lose out between 5 would mark a radical transformation. under £2bn a year. A married pence a week near the middle mation of the tax system.

Manifesto analysis: Strategy confronts painful truths about the limits of government and fiscal policy



# Radical schools plan at a price

**Education Correspondent** 

The Liberal Democrats have a well-worn mantra on education policy - nthers may claim education is their priority and passion, but nuly if we are prepared

to pay for improvement. A pledge to put an extra penny in the pound on income tax to invest in education is Paddy Ashdown's hest known and most promnted election are promising to bring all schools, including grant maintained, back into a single frame work under "light touch" local most promnted election promise, and part of a package of measures which mark the Liberal Democrats out as the

Teachers, promised smaller education authorities along the class sizes and more cash for re- same lines as charch schools.

Patricia Wynn. Davies

would set nut their policies on crime in a traditionally "liber-

al" context, and they alone

have specifically chosen to

group pledges on law and order alongside those on issues such

as housing, in the context of

wider social values. "Many peo-

ple feel too frightened to leave their home," the manifesto says, but adds: "Many do not have a decent home."

Thus there are four linked

priorities: 3,000 more police of-

ficers on the beat; the building

of more affordable and secure

housing: the ending by 2000 of the sleeping-rough scandal; and the revival of Britain's sense of

The Lib Dems are the only

main party to spell out that it

would "encourage the use nf community sentences, as an al-ternative to prison, where the

result is likely to be less reof-

fending, and use prison sen-

tences where they are essential

to public protection or to make

The Liberal Democrats' 60-

page manifesto was basically a

committee job, with the final flourishes added by Paddy Ash-

down, writes Barrie Clement.

woolly-mindedness, the allega-tion often levelled against the

Liherals, strategists have in-

sisted all the pledges have been

Beith, the deputy leader, was

asked in take charge of the process, which involved pro-

longed consultation inside and

untside the party. The long

gestation period meant that, unlike the Conservative Party,

"we cannot pull last minute rab-

costed in detail.

Lest the party be accused of

sources, would regard such a . The Liberal Democrats are

**LAW & ORDER** 

It was to be expected that of the resources on crime prevention

three main political parties, and on increasing conviction

only the Liberal Democrats rates, rather than on building

with jam on it, as one delegate sceptically told his union con-

However, the party which is least likely to win power on May 1 has also troubled to include the least concrete detail on the

mechanics of its proposals.
Only the Liberal Democrats

anthority control. Labour also promises to abolish GM status but will ofmost radical of the three main fer schools the option of stay-parties on education. for schools the option of stay-ing at arm's length from local

Lib Dems would concentrate

prisons, and renews the party's

call for a Royal Commission to

develop policies for tackling the

drugs problem "at its roots". It

pledges to increase the elected membership of police authorities and to create an accountable po-

lice authority for London. In the

"secure communities" section

the party says it would ensure

that the police took "further steps to reduce the level of racial

and homophobic violence", and

put more police into rural areas.

mission and Bill of Rights would

ensure equality before the law for lesbians and gay men, and the party would outlaw incitement

to hatred and discrimination in

grounds of sexual orientation.

housing and employment, on

Legislation would secure the

civil rights of disabled people and

the Commission for Racial

Equality's code would be given

statutory force. Immigration law

too would be reformed - to en-

A new Homan Rights Com-

Taking a liberal Host of green

route to the pledges leaves heart of crime rivals red-faced

leave the future of grammar schools in be decided locally. However, they omit to explain how local education authories

opposition to grammars. beyond Labour's promise to a maximum of 30 for five-, sixand seven-year-olds, pledging to extend the same ceiling to all primary schools within five

The National Curriculum, to be tinkered with by Labour, would be cheerfully scrapped by the Liberal Democrats, who pledge to replace it with a teacher-pleasing Minimum Curriculum Entitlement. The party is also more gen-spending pledges more liberal-

Environment Correspondent

The Liberal Democrats promise

cies than either the two main

parties and, unlike their rivals,

devote an entire manifesto

The most striking proposal is to have a "carbon tax" on coal,

chapter to the environment.

oil and gas. The money it will

raise - the party has not yet said

how much - would be used to

cut VAT and employers' Na-

tional Insurance Contributions. Even if the party never has more than 30 MPs, it has played

an important part in lifting en-vironmental issues up the agen-da. It did this with its 1992 and

1997 manifestos, and by having

its MPs sponsor two important "green" private member's Bills which got through Parliament,

on energy conservation and

The party says the new car-bon tax is needed for Britain to

cut its annual emissions of ch-

mate-changing carbon dioxide

bitious than the Conservatives'

traffic reduction.

Crafted by cabinet of three

Ashdown added finishing touch to the

against selection, but would erous than its rivals towards training and further education the unfashionable Cinderella sector which frequently complains of losing out to schools and universities. In a radical, uncosted but highly expensive move, it promises to pay course fees for all adults un approved further education courses,

which students must currently finance themselves. The money would be paid into individual learning ac-counts available to every adult and including contributions from government, individuals.

The Liberal Democrats, with £2bn annually in extra income tax to spend, sprinkle education

2010. The cost of the annual tax

disc for cars under 1600cc will

be can from £145 to £10 to boost

produce less pollution and car-

bon dioxide. The revenues lost

by this tax cut will be replaced

by putting the duty on road fu-

of the country of the

cils will be allowed to bring in vehicle tolling systems for con-gested roads. VAT on energy-

saving materials, such as insulation, will he cut from 15

to 8 per cent, the same as for

electricity and gas. The Liber-al Democrats promise to end

fuel poverty in the 2 million lowest income households, with an

insulation and draughtproofing programme, saving these homes

The party says it would double the number of passen-

gers carried on Britain's railways by 2010. Charles Secrett, di-

ifesto ever produced by any

an average £85 a year.

**ENVIRONMENT** 

much more radical green poli- sales of smaller vehicles which

gas by 30 per cent over 15 rector of Friends of the Earth, years. That target is more amsaid: This is the greenest man-

10 to 15 per cent, or Labour's major party in Britain.

ly through their manifesto than the other parties, First call on the pot of money would be nursery education. Like Labour, it would scrap nursery vouchers and seek to offer early years edneation not only for four-yearolds hut all three-year-olds whose parents wanted it. The £2bn pot, looking some-

what elastic-sided, is also earmarked for increased investment in books and equipment, for higher education and primary class size reductions. More jam on the apple for teachers is a £500m pledge over five years to tackle school

repairing crumbling schools.

repairs and maintenance. But come tax.



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# TV network buys up last days of the cult

Los Angeles

Giving oew meaning to the phrase cult film, a US network has announced plans to turn a now-familiar tale of castration, comets, and tragi-comic death into a televisioo movie.

Several Hollywood producers had publicly declared the Heaveo's Gate cult off-limits on the grounds of poor taste and a

But the ABC oetwork says it has now signed a deal to produce a film based on the story of its looe survivor. And if emerging details of the cult's life are anything to go by, there is pleaty of bathos to go around.

In the weeks before their suicides, cult members went gambling in Las Vegas, watched killer whales leap at San Diego's Sea World, and took a bus trip through California.

The lone survivor, a computer designer, Richard Ford, known as "Rio D'Angelo" in the cult, left the group four weeks before its 39 members committed mass suicide in their home north of San Diego.



media manhunt when he was named as the source of an anonymous call alerting police to the deaths. As late as Thurs-

But the sudden change of heart came as the network began running trailers for an exclusive interview with Mr Ford

"Prime Time Live". Network officials insisted there was no connection, but netting "Rio" was clearly a major scoop. Mr Ford reportedly drove to the hill-top villa and

discovered the bodies after receiving two videotapes in which members announced they were leaving their earthly "vehicles" to join a UFO trailing the Hale-

arranged by Nick Matzorkis, the Beverly Hills businessman for whom he worked as a World Wide Web designer, and who idly became his agent. It also involves the Kushmer-

duced television films with Doily Parton and other stars, and had coincidentally employed Mr Ford when it contracted with

Its chairmao Peter Locke insisted it would be a "spiritual and compelling account that dealt with cult members as "productive human beings". ABC itself was hardly trumpeting the film deal yesterday, and there may be lingering concerns about how, exactly, the story will unfold.

We will stick to the human element," Mr Mateorkis, who will serve as an executive producer, told the Los Angeles Times. The trips of the last days are recorded in a meticulous ledger. Its last entry shows they mailed their next month's rent, and paid a \$2.50 library fine. Having filmed the videotapes in which each and every member described why they planned to leave this earth, they weot out for pizza and a movie.



Chief Medical Officers' Warning

1 mg Tar 0.1 mg Nicotine

# British aid for Colombian refugee crisis

Latin America Correspondent

With US aid to Colombia large-

ly frozen because of so-called drug-emuggling "de-certifica-tion," Britain has stepped in to provide badly oeeded aid to 7,000 refugees ficeing a bloody three-way military conflict.

Despite a recent history of kidnappings of British Petroleum workers in Colombia, the . British government was the first to provide food, medicine, tents and mattresses this week to refogees along the northwestern coast of the violencetom South American nation.

Rural Colombians are used to warfare. Marxist guerrillas control most areas beyond the city suburbs. But the north-west of the country, close to the Pacific coast, is now the scene of warfare that makes Sixties' Victnam almost pale by comparison.

Guerrillas of the so-called

ball-style caps backwards, cov-er their epaulettes and appear far better fed and paid than the usual conscripts. Most Colombians believe they are regular or retired soldiers in the pay of the government or cocaine lords who control much of the country's economy.

While these two groups are bartling it out with everything from rifles to mortars, the Colombian airforce has been bombarding the north-west in an effort to crush the guerrillas. That is why 7,000 people fled their homes in the last two weeks and why the British government is providing aid.

While the US has been playing politics over Colombia - the American embassy in Bogota regards itself as a kind of de facto government - British diplomats have been quietly trying to influence events on the ground.

Britain had already set up a "distance-learning programme" to educate young Colombians jungle-clad Uraba region where soldiers, mostly conscripts brought in from other regions, feared to tread. Then by, along came so-called para-years ago. "It was in line with that tradition that we stepped in," said Johnny Welsh, British cmbassy spokesman in Bogota.

# Barclays denies bail link to jailed banker

Efizabeth Nash Madrid

Spain's disgraced former banking supremo. Mario Conde, entenced to six years in jail for fraud, has until Monday morning to raise a staggering £10m bail, and Madrid's financial world is awash with rumours that a British bank is orches-

trating the operation.

Spanish National Radio reported yesterday that Barclays was seeking to raise the mon-ey. The bank denies the report. "Barclays has nothing to do with any such operation," said the bank's Madrid spokesman yesterday. "The reports, which we think are being spread by another bank, are unfounded."

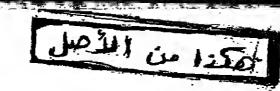
Midland, whose name is also circulating, "categorically denies" it was involved.

Spanish banks appear to have reeled away in horror at the prospect of shoring up the man held responsible for the gravest crisis in Spain's banking histo-ry. The Spanish news agency Efe, citing "sources close to the operation", reported on Thursday that an unnamed British

bank had stepped in. Barclays Madrid spokesman said: "It would be very unlikely for a Spanish bank to lend to Mr Conde because such an operation cannot be judged pure-ly oo financial terms". Mr Conde had worked with Bar-

come had worked with Bar-clays during his glory days as head of the prestigious Banesto bank in the early 1990s. Mr Conde, once one of the most powerful figures in Spain, was sacked from Banesto in 1993, accused of creating a "black hole" of £3ba.





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# aid for nbian e crisis

# Zaire's rebels prove a

powerful force for change in Africa

# The US is implicated in the conflict, reports Mary Braid

In a matter of months Zaire's rebel forces have stripped the ooce mighty dictator, President Mohutu Sese Seko, of any lingering illusions of invincibil-ity, snatching vast swathes of his territory as if it was candy from the hands of a toddler.

As they advance this week on the southern, mineral-rich provinces of Kasai and Shaba, threatening the diamond mines of Mbuji-Mayi which have served as Mr Mobutu's personal bank for three corrupt decades, the rebels appear to be changing forever the face of Africa's third largest country.

They enter peace talks in South Africa this weekend in a strong position; not bad for a force rubhished by Western diplomats as receotly as

But the repercussions of the rebellion are being felt beyond Zaire's borders across a vast tract of Africa. It has affected the course of the civil war devastating Sudan to the north and nudged the Angolan peace process back on track tens of thousands of miles to the south by closing the 'supply routes through Zaire crucial to Unita rebels.

Whether a bigger game plan was envisaged in October when the Rwandan-backed Banyamuleoge Totsis began their revolt in eastern Zaire is a matter of debate. But the question has spawned a multitude of conspiracy theories implicating foreign powers, including the United States.

The most extreme conspiracies claim the US has a masterplan for the region. This view is most popular with the French, utterly wretched about their waning infloence in Africa.

But African political analysts also give it credence. The existence of an overall US game plan is not an outlandish propo-sition, says Richard Cornwall of the Africa Institute of South Africa. He believes an American political "wish list" and US commercial interests have shaped events.

Although the world's atten-



\$20m of non-lethal military aid to oeighbouring Eritrea, Ethiopia and Uganda earlier

Army, backed and sheltered by Sudan, was using north-eastern Zaire to launch raids into rebellion conveniently allowed Uganda to shut down the LRA's attack route while its ally Rwan-da eradicated the Hutu threat which had sat just oo its border

Mr Cornwall helieves the US gave the ood to Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and

Although the world's attention has been fixed on Zaire and its border with Rwanda, Mr Cornwall places Sudan at the centre of a complex political web. The US's desire to see the overthrow of Sudan's Islamic government – which it accuses of sponsoring international terrorism – led it to provide or foresaw just how easily Zaire independent independent won poor of a gurd events. The Ugandan president is the role model for an emerging block of African countries. Eritre's, Ethiopia and Rwanda – all headed reporte terrorism – led it to provide or foresaw just how easily Zaire independent independent independent independent independent in the provide independent ind

GENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Uotil the October uprising, the Ugandan Lord's Resistance

Uganda. The Banyamulenge since the genocide of 800,000 Tirtsis in 1994.

the Rwandans to back the Banyamulenge. Then Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, was dismissed as frontman and few if any, recognised the potential for a genuine Zairean rebellion or foresaw just how easily Zaire

KASAI-ORIENTAL

ZAFRE

won power through the barrel of a gun, but whose leadership is characterised by good gover-

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Eritreans, Ethiopians and Ugandans have all been reported fighting alongside Rwanda and the demise of Mr

Mr Museveni is a US favourite. But its support for Uganda and Rwanda has brought it into direct conflict with the French which have seen their influence plummet with the change in government in Mobotu in Zaire.

SUDAN

# 6 The French are furious. Their influence in Africa is collapsing like a house of cards 9

to step in to save Mobutu's skin the US blocked it.

Of all the old European colonial powers the French alone stubbornly cling to the ootioo of empire in Africa and believe their influence there is inextri-cably linked with international

Beyond vain strutting on the world stage Mr Cornwall believes French conflict with the US rests on competition for Africa's vast untapped reserves of minerals and oil. Zaire is rich in cobalt, copper and diamonds and substantial oil finds have been made recently in Angola and Sudan. "The Freoch and Americans are battling it out over hydrocarbons," says Mr Cornwall, who sees parallels with the 19th-century Scramble for Africa during which European governments carved up the continent.

"The French are furious at the US. Their influence is col- argues, is an example of pre- African governments.

When France receotly tried lapsing like a house of cards.
And who is responsible? These Yankie Johnny-Come-Latelys who never had ao interest before," he says.

The animosity between the Freoch and the US is obvious. Their diplomats in the region have fallen out publicly and quite spectacularly. But Professor Jack Specce, of the Royal Institute for International Affairs, in London, believes this owes more to French paranoia than US commercial or political competitiveness. "Africa really comes quite far down the

US's list of priorities," he says.
"I doubt President Clinton gives it much thought." Crawford Young, an authority on Zaire based at the University of Wisconsin, similarly dismisses claims about a US

masterplan. "How many times

did Warren Christopher visit

Africa?" he asks. US policy in the area

ventative politics, driven by the fear that Zaire will fragment and its instability spill over into neighbouring countries. "The US interest is a negative interest. It is a keenness to avoid a humanitarian disaster that would call for an expensive

international operation."

Many remain unconvinced. Just how much commercial interests are shaping events now may become clearer with time. What is certain now, however, is that a reborn Zairc, cleansed of corruption, could become the economic powerhouse for the entire region.

It has the potential to provide hydro-electric power for the whole of southern Africa. Mining experts say it is hard to exaggerate the wealth of its mineral reserves. Whether they have interfered or oot, it is difficult to imagine that its commercial potential is going unnoticed by western and

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# Mothers' vigil puts Turkey to shame

Christopher de Bellaigue Istanbul

Stroll down Istiklal Street at noon today, and you might be charmed by Istanhul's slightly down-at-heel, Italianate promenade. Reach the prestigious Galatasaray High School, however, and you begin to feel uncomfortable. Roughly 300 Turks sit outside the school gates. Their re-proachful silence distinguishes them from the surrounding joility. Some hold photographs, most of young men. These are the Saturday Mothers.

Entry requirements are simple: the loss of a relative or friend in police custody. New recruits are welcomed; each month, Ankara's Human Rights Association makes additions to the 700-odd Turks they reck-on have disappeared while in the hands of the Turkish police.

The relatives of missing Turks have been meeting each Saturday since May 1995, when Emine Ocak, her husband and a few activists, staged the first protest in Istiklal Street. Mr and Mrs Ocak, members

their missing son to a municipal grave. They say he was arrested after a bloody confrontation between

Alewites and police and was not seen since. "We just want to know who killed our son," pleaded Mr Ocak.

Mr and Mrs Ocak have been joined by others awaiting justice; from humhle beginnings, their club has grown, acquire a service selective Pon Stars. acquiring a certain celebrity. Pop stars dedicate songs to them and liberal politicians court their support. Even the authorities pay them backhand-ed compliments. When Istanbul host-ed Habitat II, a big conference on the future of large cities, the governor had the Saturday Mothers cleared with the thoroughness employed to shoo away

prostitutes and stray dogs.

Common to many Turks remembered in Istiklal Street is political activism. In the early 1980s, the police targeted extreme leftists. Now, the Kurdish minority has most to fear. Some are arrested on suspicion of helping the Kurdish Workers Party, an often brutal nationalist organisa-

of Turkey's Alewite religious minor-ity, had recently traced the body of the more than refuse to inform on friends and relatives. Typically, as in the case of Hasan Ocak, the police deny arresting the missing person. He

Murvet Ozgen, one of the Satur-day Mothers' newest recruits, fears her father suffered this fate. On 27 February, Fikri Ozgen, a septuagenarian Kurd, and apparently a politically inactive one, was arrested near his home in the south-eastern town of Diyarbakir. The local military police deny taking in Mr Ozgen, al-though eye-wimesses reports suggest they did. Ms Ozgen says her father does not have access to the injections and inhaler he needs to control his chronic asthma. "He may he dead al-ready," she said. The government has begun mak-

ing concessions, reducing detention without trial. And instead of itchy-fingered riot police, the Interior Ministry has begun sending a minibus to Istikla Street each Saturday, where the protesters are invited to register the



Soft sell: An employee of the South Korean soft drinks company, Burnyang, demonstrating yesterday in front of the US embassy in

The problems of who will sit next to whom have yet to come. Four thousand of the sparring parties' closest friends will be there; both sides will nominate about 1,500 attendees each and jointly pick some 400 VIPs at foreign-minister level. The balance will be made up by journalists, of which those actually attending the party will be swamped by the estimated 4,000 expected in town to cover it. The BBC alone is sending just under 200 people.

China seems to have secured vitation-list wrangle by ensuring es. Expect more acre that no heads of state or gov- hefore the party's over.

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# Tears before bedtime for party planners

Hong Kong

Celebrations often bring out the worst in families. And never more so than when the generations are at daggers drawn and harely speaking to each other. Imagine, therefore, the complexities of organising one of the world's biggest celebrations involving two parties who are every bit as intense in their distrust of each other as cousins who have nursed a grievance for decades.

Yesterday it emerged that Britain and China had reached outline agreement on the invi-tation list for the £18.5m bash which will mark the eod of British colonial rule and China's resumption of sovereignty over Hong Kong 香港 handover

Britain of the opportunity to stage a more high-level event.

The most senior representatives from the British side will be the Prince of Wales and the new foreign secretary. China is likely to send Qian Qichen, its vicepremier and foreign minister.

leaders are expected only after the British have left. It is likely that Jiang Zemin, the President and Communist Party leader, may even come on 1 July.

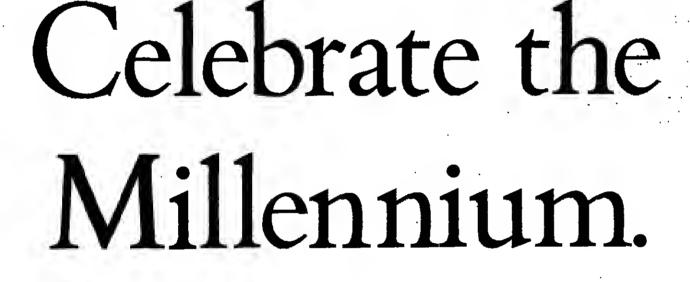
And the celebrations planned by 4 China and its local supporters to mark "The Glorious Reunification of the Motherland" will dwarf those of the handover.

Now that an outline guest list is in place and an agreement has been reached on a very simple indoor military parade, Britain and China have to agree on the upper hand in the great in- what will be said in the speeches. Expect more acrimony

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# France faces up to anxieties of the global society

Just over four years ago I was preparing to leave my last foreign posting, in Moscow, and looking back over the unique-oess of what we correspondeots had witnessed: the accelerated decline and fall of a world power. The Soviet Unioo was disbanded at mid-night on 25 December 1991 and vanished into history.

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So it was with a sense of dejà ter two years in Paris coinciding with frenzied discussion of a book, Will France disappear?, by Jean-Claude Barreau, head of the Institute of Demography, which broaches the possibility that France as we know it might not survive the social and economic spasms of the next gen-eration. It might be dismissed as another bout of introspection to which Gallic souls are peri-odically disposed, but the book, and the attention h has received. suggest something more is

A hitherto confident natioo seems to be assailed by selfdoubt. The question people are asking, taken to its cooclusion by Barreau, is whether the French state and being French are compatible with participa-tico in the modern world. This question is quite different from France's oostalgia for its dying villages and rural way of life. It is different, too, from the fervent defence of the French language and culture against the perceived "Anglo-Saxoo" (mostly American) onslaught.

Rather, it has to do with a Europe that seems to be encroaching on Freoch identity and threatening sovereignty. It has to do with first-, second- and third-generation immigrants who resist assimilation and turn to Islam. It has to do with an 'apartheid" that has developed between the suburbs of French cities and the chic city centres.

It has to do with standards of educatioo and assumptions about behaviour, it has to do with the decline of colonial inmarket economics and "globalisation". All these are treated by Barreau as threats that Mary Dejevsky, leaving Paris after a two-year posting, finds the latest bout of Gallic self-doubt a little misplaced

"joining the modern world"
might mean Opposition to the
resumption of ouclear testing was found shocking and "disloyal" wheo it came from France's partners in Europe. By itself, France was unable to match action to rhetoric in Bosnia or in its traditional stamping grounds in Africa.

At home, unemployment, at 12.7 per cent, is one of the highest in Europe. There have been race riots on housing estates and Islamic terrorist bombs, with agents among French-born and French-educated young men, and there have been strikes and The first round, in antumn

1995, came within an ace of overthrowing the government and halted the rationalisation of state pensions and reform of the

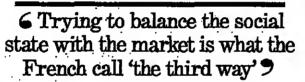
Round two, this winter, reduced the pensionable age for the railways has begun. lorry drivers and halted public . So much for the changes

and its secular state. The past iwo years have certainly given the French a taste of what increases the state of what the state of what the state of government of a conservative people wants to create, while pursuing, by steakh, the mod-emisation it deems necessary.

And there is evidence out only that more change is in progress than many realise, but that the French are more change-minded than they are given credit for - even if the changes they would like to see do not coincide with those

wanted by the government.

Notwithstanding the protests
of the past two years, the welfare system, including such sensitive areas as health and social security, is being reformed. Domestic finances (with the help of a little cheating) are being brought into line; road haulage, air routes and telecommunications are being opened to competition, albeit slowly and reluctantly. The restructuring of



transport in a dozen cities. engineered from the top. Other Barrean may exaggerate when he asks whether France will "disappear". To broach the question in such sweeping terms, however, well illustrates a feeling that permeates almost every area of French life: the feeling that France is at a junction between tradition and fluence, the Cold War victory for modernity and must choose one or the other.

A widespread impression born of the labour and anti-priimpinge particularly on France vatisation protests, is that the partly because, he argues, of its Prench have dug in their heels ack of a single ethnic identity and that the government is re-

- perhaps even more telling -changes are being demanded from the bottom. The élite caste that comprises the French political establishment is being challenged. To an outsider, the challenge seems timid. To well- the "Anglo-Saxons" as they start protected insiders, who include 'to retreat from' the consethe Prime Minister and Presi- quences of all-out competition dent, it probably seems to shake and find themselves acknowlthe very pillars that support their authority. Political links with the judiciary, political links with big siness; the clite administration school, ENA (should ENA be burnt down? asked one mag-



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azine recently); the tameness of the national media - all are coming under scrutiny.

صكدا من الأصل

A whole system of patronage, which benefits the establishment of the left as much as the right, is under threat. France is still a country where the establishment, compared with the "Anglo-Saxon" world, is closed and where the media - or enough of them to make a difference - can be cootrolled in the name of

stability and national cohesion.

The weakening of France's traditional, centralising underpinnings - good and bad -however, would not mean that France had ceased to exist. Nor are they all likely to be lost. A recent OECD report blaming France's generous benefits system and job security for high unemployment and budget deficit was dismissed by Paris with the words "the OECD's choices are not those of France". Trying to balance the requirements of a "social state" with the demands of the market is what is loosely described by French

politicians, perhaps wishfully, as the third way". France could be fortunate. It might just find that its "third way" eventually meets up with edging the need for state social intervention to keep the peace To reach that point, however, in terms of competitiveness, openness, and social mobility, France still has a long way to go. ...

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# significant shorts

# China tops the world execution league

Amnesty International said world executions hit a record 4,200 io 1996, and urged countries to sign a. UN motion oo scrapping capital punishment. China led the way with more than 3,500 executions, followed by Ukraine, Russia and Iran. Amnesty said it feared that Mohammad Assadi, an Iranian lawyer reported to have been arrested in 1993, may be at risk of immineot execution. Reuters - Gerieva

## Car workers march for jobs

Belgian police clashed with Reoault workers who marched through Brussels to try to save their jobs and force EU governments to beef up employment protection. Police turned water cannot on the demonstrators, who threw stones, eggs and firecrackers, waved staves and tried to tear down barbed-wire barricades. Reuters - Brussels

# Date set for Albania operation

Italy said a multinational force of 6,000 troops it plans to lead into Albania should begin deploying in the week starting 14 April. Italy is expected to provide 2,000 to 2,500 troops, France 1,000, Greece 700, Turkey 500, Spain 300 and Romania 400. Austria and Denmark said they were considering participation. Reuters - Rome were considering participation.

# Mostar's joint force steps out

After months of ethnic violence and political manoeuvring, 100 Muslim and Bosnian Croat policemen hined up to form the first joint police force in Mostar. A joint force, an apparently small step, represented a large psychological advance for the Muslim-Croat Federation which rules half of Bosnia.

# Rapists' charter repealed

Peru's Congress repealed a 1924 law that allows rapists to go free if they marry their victims.

# Sour end to velvet divorce

# Tony Barber Europe Editor

Four years after the Czech-Slovak "velvet divorce", the exspouses went at it hammer and tongs this week in one of central Europe's most acerbic disputes since the end of Communism. With an intensity that was more blood-red than velvet, Czech and Slovak politicians and commentators, traded abuse on issues ranging from the Czechs' fitness to join Nato to whether the Czech president had called the Slovak prime

minister paranoid. Some Czech politicians, even after an independent Slovak re-public has existed for four years, have been unable to rid theuselves of a feeling of superiority ... on the basis of which they comment on internal political events in their neighbour," a Slovak Foreign Ministry statement fumed last week.

At the heart of the dispute lies an awareness on both sides that the Czech Republic and Slovakia have gone down mark-edly different paths since they laid to rest Czechoslovakia peacefully at the end of 1992. The Czechs, though increasingly burdened with economic problems, are front-line candidates to join the European Union and Nato.

while Slovakia is in the West's bad books, almost cotirely because of the antics of its Prime Minister, Vladimir Meciar.

The row reached its zenith on Thesday when Mr Meciar, who is viewed by his domestic opponents and foreign critics as an authoritarian bully, called off a visit to Prague. It would have been his first since Slovakia gained independence.
His spokeswoman said he was reacting partly to a state-ment attributed to the Czech

Prime Minister, Vaclav Klaus The Prague media had quoted Mr Klaus, who has a reputation for arrogance, as saying that his government had more important things to do than prepare for a Meciar visit. Matters grew more serious when the Slovak government in-dicated it might try to block Czech accession to Nato on

the grounds that the Czech and Slovak states were still arguing over the terms of the 1993 divorce settlement. Among the unresolved issues are the cross-ownership of banks and division of Czechslovak gold reserves and state treasure. But it is doubtful that these mat-

ters are serious enough to give

Nato secood thoughts about

inviting the Czechs to join the al-

FANTASY POLITICS



# PAXMAN ANSWERS THE QUESTIONS

WEEK: MARY RIDDELL, FRED HALLIDAY.

# Dame Guinevere Tilney

Guinevere Tilney is best known for her time as Margaret Thatcher's wardrobe mistress, from 1975, wheo Thatcher was etected Leader of the Conservative Party, to 1983, wheo she won her second general election

She displayed a resolution in her dealings with Lady Thatcher which few men could show. To Tilney was owed the deepening of the Thatcher voice, the softening of the hairstyle, and the simplicity of the clothes in Lady Thatcher's great electoral years. Yet, she was paid oothing for her pains and troubles, except, in 1984, in the form of what she, imitating the New Zealand novelist Ngaio Marsh. like to call "me damery".

Guinevere was a very apt hantismal name for her; for she King Arthur's legeodary coo-sort. Yet she had done much more with her life than being dresser to a famous prime

She was the daughter of a family embedded in public life - her father. Sir Hamilton Grant, was a distinguished pub-lic servant. In 1944 she married a serving officer, Captain Lionel Hunter, who died three years later, and theo in 1954 she married her heloved second husband, John Tilney. The Conservative MP for Wavertree, Liverpool from 1950 to 1974, he was a figure of considerable influence in Conservative Party politics. But it was his wife who did more public work.

From an early age, Guine-vere determined to she would not he restricted to a conventiooal well-off rural English life. She became a champion of

tional stage; and a formidable advocate of human rights' causes at the United Nations. Yet, she never tost her sense of fun; and vastly eojoyed her own tale of going on the same diet as the Prime Minister, before then theo Mrs Thatcher's first visit to China. "She had to slim down", said Lady Tilney, "so, I had to show her how to

One of the most interesting things about Guioevere Tilney was that she usually looked flamboyant, but was the very reverse of flamboyant when she did what she regarded as serious business. She had a curious, though not, in her view, pater-nalistic, interest in the offshoots of the British Empire: she was, for some years, Chairman of the Empire Ladies Luncheoo Club. Although in the last decade of

may sound preposterous, the fact is that it raised more money for indigent oations, without evident publicity, than any other private charity: most of this was due to Guinevere Tilney.

And when, at the United Na-

tions, as UK Representative to the Commission on the Status of Women, 1970-73, sitting on various committees, she argued - fought would perhaps be a better word - for the rights of women she, as she once told me, had three things in mind. The first was to end female castration, especially in Africa. The secood was to persuade non-Christian communities to end their systems of arranged marriage. "After all," she once said, "Denis and Margaret met

The third great cause of her

life, always argued with aplomb, but also with charm, was to make Margaret Thatcher Prime Minister. Lady Thatch-er, as far as I know, had no woman of her own age in whom she could confide; and she did oot trust the men of her own generation. Gemevere Tilney was always there. She was there to soothe, to encourage, and to-SUDDORL

I was once walking down the Committee Room Corridor of the House of Commons with a friend who was a Labour MP. Coming towards us was a diminutive and elegant figure. "There", said my friend, "is your typical Tory MP, well-brushed, well-dressed, and rich. T hat's no advertisement for women in this House."

"Let me", I said, introducing ... Indith Hart to Gumevere. Tilney, "explain that she is not London 4 April 1997.

involved in Third World affairs than you are; and the fact that she looks nicer than you do is more a matter of taste than of wealth." The two womeo went off together. The only thing I heard thereafter was from Judith Hart "She's a nice woman. That Tory."

Patrick Cosgrave

Guinevere Grant, campaigner nber 1916; Vice-President, National Council of Women of Great Britain 1958-61, President 1961-68; UK Representative on United Nations Commission on Steams of Women 1970-73; Adviser to Margaret Thatcher MP 1975-83; DBE 1984; married 1944 Captain Lionel Hunter (died 1947; one son), 1954 Sir





Approachability: Alexander (right) with Dr John Parry, at University College, Ibadan, Nigeria in 1958

Norman Alexander, in addition to his distinguished work as a physicist, was instrumental in the establishment of many of the modern Commonwealth universities, including Ahmadu Bello University in Nigeria, and the Universities of the West Indies, the South Pacific and Botswana. Lesotho and Swaziland.

Alexander was born in Mangapiko, New Zealand, one of eight children of secondgeneration immigrant farmers from England. Scotland and Denmark. Like all farm children of pre-electricity, pre-tractor days, he worked barefoot on his allorted farm tasks, developing the personal resilience, the practical approach to problems and the understanding and respect for Maori and other cultures that marked his career.

A brilliant scholar from his days at the village school, he graduated from Auckland University with first class honours in physics in 1927, and came to Cambridge in 1930 on a two-year scholarship to the Cavendish Laboratory under his compatriot Ernest Rutherford. When this scholarship expired he funded the King's College, London.

In 1936, newly married to a fessor of Physics. There, one of antacid Milk of Magnesia and his extra-curricular projects was to develop, for the Royal Navy. plotting the projections they health permitted, to join his col-

radio direction-finding stations. Once launched on the work, he set about designing and making a machine that would draw great circle bearings plotted on Mercator charts, the method the Navy preferred: until his intervention this had involved solving thousands of spherical triangles, a formidable task in the days before calculators. Such skills received further

boning first in Changi Gaol and later in the notorious Sime Road internment camp, after the fall of Singapore to Japan in 1942 Fellow prisoners remember Alexander's lectures in physics, his sharp intellect, his scientific thinking, ingenious practicality, humour and scrupulously fair humanity. His daily argument with a cell mate was set up for the express pur-pose of intellectual survival under brutalising conditions.

It was in Changi too that he worked with fellow prisoners in building a salt evaporation plant, from materials permitted to be scrounged from immediately outside Changi's walls or made by the ingenuity and skills of fellow immates. Before he was rest of his PhD through a post as moved to Sime Road, their Demonstrator in Physics at small industrial plant was providing the camp hospital with surgical spirit (fermented from fellow PhD student Elizabeth fungi found to grow on rice and Caldwell, he moved to Raffles then distilled) and other prod-College in Singapore as Pro- ucts including forms of the

Milton sterilising thuid. He returned to Singapore needed in setting up a chain of leagues in restarting teaching at

Raffles College. Entrance ex-aminations had to be set but nobody could be sure what students had been able to study during the occupation. To optimise their chances he set the fol-lowing question: "You may have found none of the questions on this paper to your liking. If that is the case, set yourself a ques-tion and answer it."

Sir Norman Alexander

In 1952, Alexander moved to Nigeria to take up the post of Professor of Physics at University College, Ibadan, an internal college of London University that became Ibadan University on Nigeria's independence in 1960. Here his department developed magnetic and ionospheric geophysical research, contributing to the International Geophysical Year 1957-58 and becoming one of the two satellite tracking stations of the new US satellite programme. The magnetic station he established to his own design became one of the most important geophysical observatories at low atitudes and his first "homegrown" PhD students went on to become distinguished geophysicists in the international

Soon after the death of his wife in 1958 and his remarriage to Constance Genry, Professor of Education at Ibadan, he moved to the Middle East Technical University, in Ankara, to teach engineering physics, but gave up the post after a year on the invitation to become first death of his second wife, he son, two daughters; died 1958). his own method and took for after his release as soon as his Vice-Chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University, Northern Nigeria, a post he held until 1966.

academic community.

From 1966, Alexander was heavily involved as a kind of "freelance Vice-Chancellor", offering his expertise to help in the setting-up of other Com-monwealth universities, including the University of the West Indies in 1966 and the new University of the South Pacific

in Fiji from 1966 to 1968. He returned to Britain in 1968, but his appointment as Advisor to the Ministry of Overseas Development in 1970 took him to the development of an-other federal university, that of Botswana, Lesutho and Swaziland, where he authored the Alexander Report (1970) on the development of university cam-puses in each country and the unified development of higher education and vocational and teacher training. In 1971 he was appointed by the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs to the Governing Body of the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, a post he held until his retirement in 1973. Villagers of Redisham in Suf-

folk, where he lived after his return to Britain, remember some of Alexander's practical engineering skills, as applied to their bus shelter, in the repairs to the church using geological specimens definitely not from Suffolk, and in the militarily accurate, fibreglass Roman soldiers' helmets made for the moved to Devonshire, where he 1959 Constance Geary (died married Evelyn Clark, an ex- 1991), 1992 Evelyn Clark; died education officer from North- 26 March 1997.

em Nigeria. Here he maintained the house and garden through a unique blend of sci-entific principle, practical skill and the use of New Zoaland fencing wire, while a succession of nurses and visitors recruited to help with his wife's failing health were driven into the ground by his continued passion for hard argument. Until the last few days of his life, he main-tained his intellectual work by writing up his unique experience of young Commonwealth Uni-versities (with a book planned) and analysing the milking pat-tern of the hord of cows visible from his window.

He was a man of enormous integrity, approachability, and perceptiveness who could and would argue the finer points of woun argue the mer points of the late Beethoven quartets, the rigging of Nelson's ships, or the military details of Alexander's battles, with equal enthusiasm and expertise.

Mary Harris

Norman Stanley Alexander. physicist and university administrator: born Mangapiko, New Zealand 7 October 1907; Pro-fessor of Physics, Raffles College, Singapore 1936-52 (University of Malaya from 1949); Professor of Physics, University College, Ibadan, Nigeria 1952-60; CBE 1959; Vice-Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria 1961-66; Kt 1966; maried TADD EN

# David Cox

Anyone who has ever tuoed in to hear the oews on the BBC World Service over the past 30 years will have become familiar with the lively, foot-tapping arrangement of "Lillibulero" which has so reassuringly introduced the programme on the hour. Its arranger was David Cox, for many years a gentle and most popular figure in the cor-ridors of the BBC.

All his life a man of Kent, he was born in Broadstairs and except for his early years, when the family lived in Australia, and a short time in London after the death of his first wife, he was devoted to his homes first in Dunton Green, then Magpie Bottom and latterly at Pratt's

Bottom, all in the Orpington and Sevendaks area. On returning to England from Australia in 1935 he entered the Royal College of Music, where his compositioo teachers were Ralph Vaughan Williams and Herbert Howells, with another composer, Arthur Beojamin, for piano, from 1937 to 1939. At the same time he was an organ scholar at Worcester College, Oxford, until 1940, serving also as assistant organist at Christ Church Cathedral. His war service was with the RAF from 1941 to 1945, when he also played the clarinet in the

After the war Cox joined the BBC, where he was to remain until his retirement in

1976. His first appointment was as a music producer and with the World Service, where he started with the Latin American services. From there he went to the Third Programme before returning to Bush House in 1956 to become music organiser for the overseas services for the rest

of his career. On his retirement his association with the BBC continued until 1989 as a valuable member of the Audition Panel, listening anonymously to would-be young broadcasters, as well as being a member of the larger group of prestigious musicians who gave their time as members of the outside Listening Panel, independently re-

porting on the standards of not only "Lillibulero" but oth- Music (1974) will remain his first broadcasts of artists. Both of these tasks he took very seriously and reported with perception and fairness.

The music of Peter Warlock was particularly dear to David Cox and gives a clue to his own compositional style. This is heard to its best in his Three Songs from John Donne of 1959 and the Five Songs after John Milton of 1975. In addition to his arrangements and signature tunes, his best known orchestral work is the overture London Calling which he wrote for the 50th anniversary celebrations of the BBC External Sorvices and first performed in 1982, in which he incorporated

er themes associated with the

Choral works also feature in his output, many of them festival commissions. Among these are the Cantata of Beasts (1957). Songs of Earth and Air, on texts of Dryden (1960) and A Greek Cantata (1967). In 1969 his one opera. The Children in the Forext. used his own libretto adapted from the Arthur Ransome story and was written for the Cookham Festival. A number of attractive piano works and music for recorder and piano make up his principal instrumental

The Henry Wood Proms (1980) and Debussy Orchestral

main books but his contributions to the study of the music of Warlock should not be forgotten, notably in Peter Warlock: a centenary celebration (1994) which he compiled and edited with John Bishop. He was a reg-ular contributor to musical periodicals and wrote a number of articles for the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians

His particular musical interests were for English music of the 20th century, with French music coming a close second. After his retirement he considered writing a philosophical study on the essence and meaning of music but this oever pro-

gressed beyond long and fascinating discussions on the topic with his musical friends and collearnes. He also wrote a novel, based in Yugoslavia, which remains unpublished. David Cox was a good friend

in the best sense of the term. His quiet, sincere manner and occasional hesitancy in conversatioo concealed a sharp, searching and perceptive mind. A fine linguist and fascinating cooversationalist, his gently dry humour matched a remarkable patience occasionally disturbed only by some of the more extremes of modern music or the later trends in music hroadcasting.

Graham Melville-Mason



David Vassall Cox, composer, born Broadstairs, Kent 4 February 1916; married 1954 Barbara Butche r (died 1982; one son, two daughters), 1992 Sybil Bell: died Pratt's Bottom 31 January 1997.

# Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

MAXWELL: Peacefully, at Denham Manor, in Denham, Boeking-hamshire, aged 89 years, Dr Robert Maxwell, general practitioner in East Ham for over 40 years. Widower of Marita, much-loved father of Bennett and grandfather of Harriet. Funeral on Thesday 8 April. 2 30pm. at Goldens Green Crematorium. No flowers please, but donations to the Cameron Fund, EMA Charities, EMA House, London WC1H 9JF.

SHARP: Robert. on 30 March, aged 73.

SHARP: Robert, on 30 March, aged 73. Funeral service to be held at the City of Norwich (Earlham) Crematorium, on Wednesday 9 April, at 230pm. Enquiries in Peter Taylor Funeral Services. Telephone 01603 760787.

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 0171-293 2012 or fax to 0171-293 2010. Charges are 26.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL: ENVLAGE BUTLENT'S
TODA'S The Date of Other Amends ceremomen
marking the amalgamation of the Royal Anstary Air Force and the Royal Air Force Voluniteer Reserve at Royal Air Force Coramed,
Lincolnoline, The Princess Royal will strend the
158th Anniversary of the Grand National at
Annire Rascourse, Ambre, Mercyade, ToMORROWY Princess Margaret visits Tevicamay Abbey, Gloucesteachire, attends a Service
of Thanksgiving for the success of the Abbey

Changing of the Guard Changing of the Guard
TODAN The Household Cavalry Mounted
Regiment mounts the Queen's Lift Guard at
Horse Guards, 11 am; 1st Battalion Scots
Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Bucklegham Feliace, 11,30am, band provided by the
Coldstream Guards, TOMORROW: The
Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts
the Queen's Lift Guard at Horse Guards, Mons,
Las Battalion Scots Guards mounts the Queen's
Quard, at Backingham Pulson, 11,30am, hand
provided by the Coldstream Guards.

### **Birthdays**

TODAY: Professor John Albery, Master of University College, Oxford, 61; Vice Admiral Sir Neil Anderson, former Chief of Defence Staff (New Zealand), 70; Miss Jane Asher, actress, 51; Mr Michael Bryant, actor, 69; Mr Andrew Burton, chairman, Barclays Bank, 58; Mr Allan Clarke, rock singer, 55; Mr Roger Corman, film director and prodocer, 71; Baroness Delacourt-Smith of Alteryn, 81; Mr John Dick, former Di-rector, N.M. Rothschild & Sons, 84; rector, N.M. Rothschild & Sons, 84; Miss Agnetha Faltskog, singer with Abba, 47; Mr Tom Finney, footballer, 75; Dr John Gilbert MP, 70; Mr Arthur Hailey, author, 77; Mr Nigel Hawthorne, actor, 68; Sir Douglas Henley, former Anditor-General, 78; Professor Roman Herzog, Pres-ident of Germany, 63; Professor De-nis Lawton, Chairman, Londoo University School Framinarium and nis Lawton, Chairman, Londoo University School Examinations and Assessment Council, 66; Admiral Sir Michael Livesay, former Chief of Naval Personnel, 61; Professor Don-ald Lynden-Bell, astronomer, 62; Professor Peter Moore, former Prin-cipal, London Business School, 69; Mr Stanley Orme MP, 74; Mr Gre-gory Peck, actor, 81; Miss Jennifer Penney, ballerina, 51; General Col-Penney, ballerina, 51; General Col-in Powell, former chairman, Amer-ican Ioini Chiefs of Staff, 60; Lord

Rockley, chairman, Kleinwort Ben-son. 63; Miss Anne Scott-James, author and journalist, 84. TOMORROW: Mr Franta Belsky, sculptor, 76. Sir Paul Beresford MP, 51; Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, associate general secretary, UNISON, 52; Mr Rory Bremner, impressionist, 36; Mr John Brooke-Little, Claracceus King of Arms, 70; Mr Inse Celler King of Arms, 70, Mr Ivan Collan, High Commissioner to Brunei, 54; Miss Anne Campbell MP, 57; Miss Joan Carlyle, sopraco, 66; Mr Bernard Carter, painter and etcher, 77; Mr Anthony Chubb, former chairman, Foseco, 69; Mr Roger Cook, broadcaster and journalist, 54;

Mr Paul Daniels, magician, 59; Admiral Sir Desmond Dreyer, 87; Mr Julian Faber, former chairman, Willis, Faber and Dumas, 80; Mr Julian Faber, former chairman, Willis, Faber and Dumas, 80; Mr Julian Faber, former chairman, Willis Hall, writer, 68: Dr David Inwans Hall, writer, 63; Dr David Ingram, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Kent al Canterbury, 70; Sir John Knox, former High Court judge, 72; Lord Moore of Wolvercute, former private secretary to the Queen, 76; The Rev Ian Paisley, MP and MEP, 71; Miss Felicity Palmer, mezzo-soprano, 53; Mr André Previn, composer and conductor, 68; Mr Dudley Sution, actor, 64; Mr Dilip Vengsarkar, cricketer, 41; Professor James D. Watson, geneticist and Nobel prizewinner, 69; Sir Marcus Worsley Bt, Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, 72

Anniversaries

TODAY: Births: Thomas Hobbes, philosopher, 1588; Giovanni Giacomo Casanova, Chevalier de Seingalt, lover and adventurer, 1724; Jean-Honoré Fragonard, painter, 1732; Joseph Lister, first Baron Lister, surgeon and pioneer of antiseptics in surgery, 1827; Spencer Tracy, actor, 1900; Bette (Ruth Elizabeth) Davis, actress, 1908. Deaths: Georges-Jacques Danion, French revolutionary leader, guillotined 1794; George Herbert, fifth Earl of Carnarvoa, Egyptologist, 1923; Douglas MacArthur, general, 1964; Howard Robard Hughes, aviator, industrial-ist and film producer, 1976; Chiang Kai-shek, statesman and soldier, 1975; Marshal of the RAF Sir Arthur Travers Harris Bt, former chief of Bomber Command, 1984. On this day: Oscar Wilde was arrest fences committed with Lord Alfred Douglas, 1895; the second Battle of the Somme ended, 1918; Sir Winston Churchill resigned as Prime Minister, 1955; in Sicily, Mount Emacrupted, followed by violent flows of lava, 1971: Sir Harold Wilson re-

signed as Prime Minister, 1976. To-

day is the Feast Day of St Albert of Montecorvina, St Derfel-Gadaru, St Ethelburga of Lyminge, St Ger-ald of Sauve-Majeure and St Vincent

TOMORROW: Births: Jean-Bup-TOMORROW: Births: Jean-Baptiste Rousseun, playwright and poet, 1671; René Lalique, jewellery designer, 1860; Harry Houdini (Erich Weiss), stage magician and escapist, 1874; Anthony Herman Gerard Fokker, aircraft designer, 1890; Sir John Betjeman, poet, 1906. Deaths: Richard I (Coeur de Lion), King of England Killed in boule 1109. Al. England, killed in battle 1199; Albrecht Dürer, artist, 1528; Igor Fyodorovich Stravinsky, composer, 1971. On this day: St Paol's Cathodral and other churches were badly damaged following an earthquake tremor in London, 1580; George Washington was elected as first US president, 1789; the first modern Olympic Games were inaugurated at Athens, 1896, the United States declared war on Germany, 1917. Today is the Feast Day of St Celestine L pope, St Entychius of Constantino-pie, St Marcellimis of Carthage, St Prudentius of Troyes and St William

Lectures

wards", 230pm

TODAY

National Gallery: James Heard, "Cruelty and Kindness (I): Maes, "Cruelty and Kindness (It: Maes, Christ Blessing the Children", 12pm. Victoris and Albert Museum: Max-ine Smitheram, "The Silhouette of Pashion and Underwear, 1947 on-Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury. "Hogarth's Conversation Starters".

British Museum: George Hart, "Egyptian Myths: Ostris, Isls and the Vengeance of Horas", 1.15pm

TOMORROW Tate Gallery: Sarah O'Brien Twoh Common Tale: Art and Anti-Art

# Where moral compasses won't work

The other night 1 found myself arguing with one of the Beirut hostages about Myra Hindley. This was not a dream, but a curate's dinner party. The general sentiment among these good Christian people seemed to be that Hizbollah must be forgiven, Myra Hindley might be forgiven, but journalism was wholly unforgivable. Yet forgiving Myra Hindley seems hard, even

The hostage's argument was that Myra Hindley, whom he visits, had been led into evil by Ian Brady. What she had dooe was terrible, but she had done it because she was in love with a madman, and she had since repented, very deeply. So it was wrong to keep her in prison to gratify the prejudices of Sun readers. And at first sight there is a lot to be said for this, especially when you consider that the man keep-ing her in prison is Michael Howard. The Home Secretary, I tell my children, is a man you can set your moral compass by: each time you have the chance to exercise power over people as defenceless as prisoners are, ask yourself what Michael

Howard would do and try the opposite. But there are regions towards the pole where compasses cannot help, and as the conversation continued, I found myself wondering whether Myra Hindley's case might not be such a moral extremity - a place where even Michael Howard might be right.

This has nothing to do with deterrence.

What Myra Hindley did is not something most people can be deterred from, because it is not something they could be tempted into. Any honest parent must confess to the temptation of infanticide, however fleeting; but the urge to torture children to death is something very different.

faith oreason

Myra Hindley was acting 'under orders' when she committed her crimes - just as soldiers are who do terrible things in war. Why then, asks Andrew Brown, should she be punished and not them.

protect the public. Without Brady then, she would not have killed. Without him now, she will not do so again. I don't think I would want her for a babysitter, but I believe this distaste is partially irrational. She may be as harmless as Rudolf Hess was. But I don't see what was so terrible about locking him up for the rest of his life, cither.

Indeed, the analogy with Nazis is an in-teresting and fruitful ooe, because Hindley's defenders argue that she was only following the urgings of the man she loved. Why should we say that obeying orders is oo excuse, while obeying a lover is? Obeying orders is usually a much oobler and more dangerous occupation for a soldier than going along with your lover is and besides, the love which allows or impels you to torture small children is not

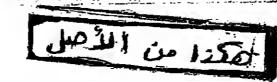
what is usually meant by the term. Yet soldiers, and especially airmen, do do terrible things for which they are never punished. Modern weapoos make atrocity almost inevitable. Young men death is something very different.

Nor do 1 think she must be kept in to things to children as terrible as anything

Myra Hindley managed. Bombing civilians would surely be recognised as a war crime if it weren't so terribly effective.

The difference may be patriotism, but that can't be the whole difference. The motives that actually make young men fight tend to overlap with some of those which actuated Hindley: loyalty, and a love of fun among them. Fighting men have almost always recognised the virtues of their opponents, because they share them. The cause is almost secondary. No, the difference, I found myself arguing, was innocence. The young men in aeroplanes have an innocence because they do not really know the effects of their bombs; still less do they come back again and again to watch the effect on different children. as Brady and Hindley did,

It's very difficult to imagine what it might be like to repent of their crimes: possibly more difficult than to imagine what it would be like to commit them. We are told that she has repeoted, and that we should forgive her, by a man who has forgiven his own torturers, and who says, convincing ly, that he could not live without this foreness. But instinctively, even in o dinner party full of Christians for whom "Ster read-er" was a trem of was a term of moral opprobrium, the majority were clearly in favour of locking her away for the rest of her life. Of course it is unfair that she should have come to stand as the symbol of evil incarnate. But it does not seem to me desperately unchristian to ask her to bear this, and to play the role gracefully. If that means spend ing the rest of her life in prison, as a nance, that at least offers some meaning to her suffering: in an extraordinary sense, by being unjustly imprisoned she is justly paying her debt to society.



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# A party dedicated to fairness and freedom

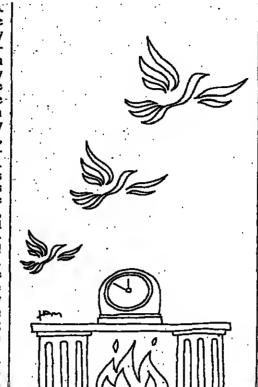
his week we have been trying to present the best case that can be made from the manifestos for voting for the main parties. Of the three, yesterday's from the Liberal Democrats is by far the most challenging, meaning that it would change Britain's political landscape most dramatically. But that observation is not an underhand reference to the electoral fact that the Liberal Democrats will not form the next government and so can afford to be bold while the serious contenders cower. They are radical not merely because it suits them: the Lib Dems put rare and special weight on the second of the great political ideas which make up their title, democracy.

Much of the case for voting for them rests on their faith in us, the citizenry. The Lib Dems are optimists. They believe we actively wish for a higger stake in our government and would make use of the stronger democracy their manifesto proposes - proportional representation, a predominantly elected second chamber, new powers for local authorities, more referenda. That's its radicalism. None of those changes in the way of governing guarantee any changes in the policies themselves. The Lib Dems want to open the doors and windows at Westminster, renew political life in Cardiff and Edinburgh and - promising eventually a local income tax - inject new vitality into local government. How we might

use this more powerful democracy is up to us. Elsewhere, the mamfesto groans with the Lib Dems' own suggestions for what they would do if they formed a majority government. Of course, given our electoral system and their standing in the polls, this is fantasy politics. But the days when the they could be fairly accused of administrative innocence are gone, thanks to their weight of numbers in local politics. Besides, a lot of effort has clearly gone into getting the fiscal arithmetic right, and it is all set out here (and in an accompanying document on costs) in black and white,

Putting a clear political tag on the Lib Dems is not easy; the manifesto bursts with ideas without betraying an ideology. There are echoes here of pristine Victorian liberalism, the creed of John Stuart Mill who believed in the educative nature of political participation, pavement upwards. The Liberal Democrats approach Europe in this way. They have no fear of federalism, provided we strive to make the institutions of the European Union more answerable. They would do this by making the European Parliament an active legislature, overseeing the work of the Council of Ministers and the European Commission.

But there are strong signals too of muscular collectivism. We could be made healthier by increasing taxes on tobacco, greener by altering the balance of taxes on petrol and



public transport subsidy, better educated, by an extensive and expensive programme for

Locally, the Lib Dem state would be active, too. Councils would get involved in economic affairs, through development agencies. They would set prices for road use in congested areas, using the proceeds to improve public transport – and cycle ways. The Liberal Democrats believe strongly, too, in that branch of the Welfare State which is not always recognised as such - the town and country planning system. Their manifesto promises tough controls on development outside the urban envelope. Woe betide private house-builders who buy up green fields in the hope of extending suburbas.

Sometimes the recipe is for less govern-ment. In the only mainstream manifesto to mention gays and lesbians, the Lib Dems confirm their position as the most liberal of the national parties. They straightforwardly promise the repeal of that notorious clause in the 1988 Local Government Act forbidding "encouragement" of those nameless activities which so upset Mrs Thatcher and her Cabinet colleagues. Meanwhile they burnish their pink credentials by promising to crack down on homophobic attacks while - a coy phrase, but the meaning is clear - encouraging the police to become more representative of the communities they serve.

In economic life, Liberal Democratic government would balance freedom and restraint. Some markets are roundly denounced, among them those in Britishmade arms and in products made overseas by child, slave or forced labour. This is the only manifesto this week that dares talk about excessive concentration of media power, promising intervention to stop mergers or take-overs that damage diversity.

Rupert Murdoch is not mentioned by

name, but as good as. For the Lib Dems are prepared to use words and phrases that were on the tips of Labour and Tory tongues but could not be uttered. Words such as local education authority, gay rights, Rupert Murdoch, council tax, European Parliament, public transport and fox hunting. It is not that they have a cut and dried policy for each. (Fox hunting and hare coursing are, they say, to be put to a free vote in the House of Commons.) But, on the evidence of this manifesto, the Liberal Democrats have no fear of the thought police who seem these days to be stalking the rest of British politics. This is a party easily patronised and laughed at by the big battalions. But for the rest nf us, the best argument for the Liberal Democrats is to imagine politics without them - as a simple, stifling and self-censoring struggle between the Tories and New Labour. That would be, we think, intolerable.

# ■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

# Get out and vote – for anybody except that insulting chicken

Sir: Swampy invites us (Letters, 2 April) to take direct action but nnt to bother voting, because all the main parties are the same. If we must vote, he says, let us spoil our ballot papers with the words "none of the above", to register our dislike of all candidates.

Can I vote against Swampy, if ever obsession began to interfere with my life? No, because he's not standing for election; he's too busy taking direct action. Thank God the British National Party don't see parliamentary democracy in the

same way.

Don't be anti-democratic, Swampy - take the people with you, and risk being accountable to there. Who is going to know bow many ballot papers were spoilt with your formula? Will they be counted? Or will they just be lumped together with the lazy, the apathetic, and the uninterested? **GREGORY GUDGEON** 

Hydon Heath, Surrey

Sir-"Swampy" believes that our political system is a farce. But for all its faults it is the system we have got. The local and general elections on 1 May are an opportunity to vote for candidates who share Swampy's opposition to road and airport building. It may not he much of a chance to express views in which you helieve, hut why just throw it away?

Sir: I was interested to read in John

Walsh's interview (29 March) what

My uncle, Sir Thomas Elmhirst,

whn was Commander-in-Chief of

wrote an account of the somewhat

ad hoc funeral arrangements in his

recollections (privately published

hy his son Roger). He had returned from a morning

game of golf with his wife to find

shot dead in a nearby garden. He noted with some relief that the

later my uncle was informed that

Pandit Nehru and his cabinet had

decreed that Gandhi's funeral was

take place the following day and to

be arganised by the three Chiefs of

chairman). A million people were

expected to turn np.
In his own words, "There was no

time to be lost. I telephoned the

other members of the committee,

Lieutenant-General Roy Bucher

and Vice-Admiral Ted Party, who

both came to my hungalow at once.

I provided pens and paper (and whiskey and soda). We were joined

Roy Bucher was unable to spare

by Defence Secretary H M Patel

and got to work."

to be a "state funeral". It was to

Staff (of whom my uncle was

assassin was not a Muslim. An hour

Air Commodore Mukerjee waiting to tell him that Gandhi had been

the Indian Air Force at the time,

the five-year-old Gita Mehta

and how it compared with his

funeral as portrayed in the film

remembered of Gandhi's funeral

Rush to stage Gandhi's funeral

Since 1979 the Conservative government has completed over 400 road schemes, including 160 major bypasses, on their own figures. It's not just the Tories. The Liberal Democrat MP for Newbury, David

Rendel, has supported the destructive bypass even after the former transport minister Stephen Nurris has admitted it was an error.

What about New Labour? It took them eight drafts of their transport policy to achieve a commitment to review" the roads programme. How deeply reassuring of nothing.
In many constituencies there are

candidates who have opposed road building, and can be relied on to do so. They are the Green Party JOHN NORRIS

Richmond upon Thames

Sir: As a Labour councillor and a magistrate, I am interested in the quality of public life. I'm appalled by the Tories sending a bloke dressed as a chicken after Tony Blair. What do they think they're playing at?
What an insult to the democratic

process: it is certainly at odds with the image that nice man on his soapbox is trying to put about. ROGER CRISP Southend-on-Sea, Essex

Sir. You write: "Britain Junder the Conservatives] has more mobile phones, more televisions, more

any soldiers to guard the route, Ted

sailors, which left about a thousand

clerks, mechanics and signalmen :.

unaccustomed to ceremonial or

All three thought that a gun carriage would be unsuitable. Roy

Bucher suggested a four-wheel cart.

should haul it and Ted Parry agreed

(perhaps this was later changed to the lorry which Ms Mehta saw).

There was a five-mile route with no

not responsible for the pyre itself.

Having decided that Englishmen would be nut of place at the pyre,

they arranged to pay their last respects as the procession began.

The following morning, however,

he received a telephone call to say

that Lord Mountbatten and his

family would be attending the

burning ceremony and that the

expected to be there. All three

inappropriate to do so, but they

were overruled by the Governor

General (Mountbatten), whose

I wonder how much time Sir

Richard Attenborough had to

arrange the film version!

word was law.

Stillingfleet, North Yorkshire

protested, saying that it would be

Chiefs of Staff would also be

My uncle and his committee were

hope of any servicemen to line it.

That was left to the police.

guard duties) to guard the pyre.

My nucle thought that sailors

Parry had two or three dozen

from the Air Force, (men

supermarkets and more restaurants." (leading article, 3 April) If this is something to be proud of, I am in

Five years ago there were in fact many more restaurants than there are now. Most of them closed in 1993 along with everyone else, The figures are distorted because McDonalds, Pizza Hut et al now classify.

themselves as restaurants. Since a national supermarket opened just outside my local market town, two years ago, two out of three family bakers have shut; the town centre grocers has shut; the post office has shut and three village

stores within the area have closed. Do you really think that having more mobile phones is a good thing?
JEREMY O'GORMAN Littlebury, Essex

Sir: Labour, we are told, will take 250,000 young unemployed people off welfare, though over what period they have not said. Before we get too excited it may be worth bearing in mind the following quotation from the Labour Force Survey: "Since summer 1993 the number of people aged under 25 who were unemployed according to the International Labour Organisation's definition has fallen by 264,000."

If Labour are to subsidise employers taking on young unemployed with a £60 per week tax break for six months, where will the

new inbs come from? All this will mean is that employers will, until the target number has been met, just employ young people. They may even shed a few others to ensure they get the benefit of a tax break. NIALL HAMMOND

Sir: Last September I wrote to Kenneth Clarke urging him, in the November 1996 budget, to introduce the transfer of tax allowances between married partners, as now promised in the Conservative election manifesto.

Dawlish, Devon

The reply came from an Inland Revenue official who assured me that he was speaking in accordance with "principles approved by the Chancellor". It said that the Government had first proposed doing this in 1986, but "did not feel that there was sufficient [public] support to go ahead with such a farreaching reform". STEVE BAGNALL Kingham, Oxfordshire

Sir: A bit too late, isn't it? The Tories are at pains to tell us all the good things they are prepared to do during the next five years if they are reelected. I would like to know why they didn't do them during the 17 years they have been in power. FH CASTELLANOS Wisbech, Cambridgeshire

# No Red peril in our twin town

Sir: For many years, town twinning has been seen as an excellent way of promoting social and cultural relationships between nations.

So when Jerry Hayes comments that "Harlow council is a left-wing ... authority... twinned with somewhere in the Eastern bloc (My Week, 31 March), I find myself in despair. Is Harlow's MP so out of touch

with life in general that be still believes the "Eastern bloc" exists? And is he so out of touch with life in Harlow that be doesn't know our town (not our council) is twinned with Havirov in the Czech Republic – a state which is now seeking EU membership? RALPH ROWLAND

Chair, Harlow Town Twinning Association Harlow, Essex

### Chance for a tea and biscuits donor

Sir: Yesterday I gave my four-monthly pint of blood. Everyone who is able should try to give at least once. It's neither painful nor nasty, and someone somewhere benefits.

Afterwards donors are offered tea,

coffee, soft drinks and hiscuits, I was surprised to learn that the blood donating and supply service pays for these out of its own funds. I'd like to encourage the giant food corporations to sponsor refreshments in blood-donor centres. It could only do their image good. I'm certain shareholders would approve of an annual report demonstrating such generosity to the community at large. SANDRA SHULMAN London NW6

# Pussycat of Bodmin

Sir: You published on 4 April a phntograph of "a rare sighting of the Beast of Bodmin". Am I to understand that the infamous "beast' is no more than a domestic cat nr two (judging by the size of the sheep and stone wall also in the picture). Or is it indeed a larger creature and the sheep and walls nn Bodmin Moor are much larger than anywhere else in the HARRY COLSON

Guildford, Surrey

### Steering clear

Sir: Your story regarding Richard Branson, Virgin and a specific project to develop the potential of the Royal Yacht Britannia (report, 29 March) was very interesting but sadly inaccurate. Richard Branson has not looked at that particular project, and the person who did look at it from our company had told the promoters that we were not interested some time before your article was published. WILL WHITEHORN Virgin Group Ltd London W8

# Gentlemen's dilemma

Sir: Jo Brand (column, 29 March) must lead a very sheltered life. In this part of the country, the generation brought up with "officers' ladies. NCOs wives, and other ranks' women", would be likely to give a very frosty reception to Jn Brand if she referred to any woman other than as a "lady", whereas the same word would make their daughters squirm. It's hell, I tell you. DAVID FOSTER Whatfield, Suffolk

# LETTER from THE EDITOR

Well, I think all of us in appropriate image. I guess, the newspaper trade since nur election site -V can congratulate ourselves on an excellent first week nf the campaign, conducted according to the finest traditions of British journalism. We are beating them, you see: it is politicians nil, hacks four. Sex acts in public parks, men dressed as rhinos and foxes, and a fight between two chickens have been the weapons used to keep serious issues away from public life, and very successful they've been. Well done, all!

That said, today's front-page story nn pensions is, to my mind, our most important domestic news of the week. That's a real scandal, not a Sun one. Under-informed and worried people are encouraged to engage in insufficiently protected financial relationships with the pension companies, who are among the greatest and most powerful baronies of modern Britain. For tens of thousands of people, often frugal and careful, it is the financial equivalent of very unsafe sex indeed.

And where are the politi-

cians, whose job must include regulating this? It is not as if they haven't been warned. This story is not a re-run of the great pensinns fiasco of the late Eighties - but there are strong echoes. Then, people lost hig sums of money because they were bribed by the Government to leave occupational pension schemes and buy into private schemes, often with big hidden charges. As it happens, the juninr minister defending this duff legislatinn in 1986 was John Major. But the wider point is that it was a failure, not simply of individual ministers, but of the process itself, a failure of parliamentary scrutiny of vital legislation. Some 350,000 people were affected and things, it seems, have got little better since. Those who still say that politics and political reform don't matter to the real world might like to chew on that.

It was a new experience for me, but it is going to become routine for most of us. Opening The Independent's nn-line debating forum earlier this week, I lost my Net virginity (an

http://www.virgin\_net - is done: with Virgin Net). Two hours passed in a flash as I tapped out responses to a hewilderingrange of Independent cybernauts and passing trade who wanted to talk about the election. They learned what was: going on on the front page, and what we thought about Blair.

Major etc. But what did I learn? First that this works; it has advantages over the traditional letters page, since readers can argue with us properly, rather than by stately broadside. The disadvantages are that you progress

It was a new experience for me, but it is going to become routine for most of us. Opening our on-line forum this week, I lost my Net virginity'

by sentences or phrases, rather than by considered paragraphs; . and that it cats up time. But it . was a curiously comfortable, intimate pub-like atmosphere. Most talkers were, I guess, young. Though a few electronic hecklers swept through, and one confused tapper was looking excitedly for sex talk, they seemed well informed about politics and had serious questions - about the way that sleaze had dominated early coverage of the campaign, the privatisation of London Underground, pensinn reform and so on. My strongest impression and it's a gross generalisation

was of people whose political outlook could not be described by any single adjective, never mind party. Many were guard-edly pro-Thatcher, anti-Europe hut also strongly libertarian and green: it was, almost, Por-tillo-meets-Swampy. Are they purely People of the Net, nr is there a big political constituency out there hiding beyond the frontiers of current

Andrew Marr

### Drinking is bad for would-be fathers too

Sir: The suggestion that doctors would not dare tell a drinking man who wanted to father children to cut out drinking is quite false ("Nice girls don't drink, do they?", 3 April). It is well known that heavy drinking and smoking depress the sperm count. I would always tell men in this situation that they ought to reduce both.

I advise pregnant women to drink alcohol sparingly. I am quite sure that a few glasses of wine per month do no damage at all to the foetus.

# Plenty of time for doctors to rewrite the Hippocratic Oath

Sir: It is surprising that, as a BMA member, Mr Thomson (letter, 2 April) was unaware of the association's attempts to update the Hippocratic Oath . The concept of a formal commitment to shared professional values in a form which is relevant to modern practice is an ideal which the BMA has been discussing for several years. Doctors in Sheffield and Liverpool. Asia and the Americas have responded by sending us their

drafts and comments. The BMA's aim now in publicising a draft text is precisely to encourage more to do

pyre blazes in New Delhi in 1948

It is impossible to find a form of words to suit every perspective and so we have concentrated on core values which we hope will be thoroughly analysed and constructively argued. Selective and inaccurate quoting of the draft, such as that relating to abortion in Mr Thomson's letter, is unhelpful in our attempt to achieve

consensus amongst the medical profession.

After some desperate British stage-management, Gandhi's funeral

We anticipate a year of further debate before the text will be finalised by the BMA and all the countries represented in the World Medical Association, and so Mr Thomson has plenty of time to suggest improvements. A W MACARA Chairman of Council British Medical Association London WC1

Photograph: AP

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor. The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (Fax: 0171-293-2856; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) and include a daytime telephone number.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are mable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

# QUOTE UNQUOTE

For the past 10 years, conventional TV news programmes have been haemorrhaging viewers under 50 at a phenomenal rate -Kirsty Young, Channel 5's news presenter

David Dimhleby presents it. It is part of the Constitution that all major events have to be presented by a Dimbleby - Jeremy Paxman, TV presenter, on the BBC's election night coverage

The one thing I learnt as Margaret Thatcher's chief whip was that , there is no limit to the capacity of human beings to absorb flattery

I think you have to be deranged to want to be famous - Colin Firth, : star of the film 'Fever Puch', and Mr Darcy in 'Pride and Prejudice' Some might benefit from psycbotherapy but we would never suggest that because they would walk straight out of the door -Philip Logan, co-director of the gymnasium favoured by Diana, Princess of Wales, discussing his clientele

My belief is that aliens were not involved in these people's deaths. However we have to keep an open mind - Simon Burgess of the

insurance company that underwrote the Heaven's Gate suicide cult : for \$1m per member in the event of death through alien attack If yown saft enuff ter cum dahn 'ere agooin wum, yowr tay ull be spile't - New road sign in Dudley (trans: 'If you are daft enough to come down here, your tea will be spoiled')

Many of its cities and regions are flourishing, but the state of Italy is ill. Having failed to respond to treatment, can the patient still be saved, asks **David Walker** 



Resurrection in Italy: a panel from Pierro della Francesca's cycle on the history of True Cross in the church of San Francesco, Arezzo

# A nation in need of a miracle

fter seven years in possible this Easter once again to see Piero della Francesca's magnificent cycle depicting the discovery and verification of the True Cross. Constantine dreams; his mother, St Helena, has the cross dug up and - in the panel above - tests its power to resurrect.

At least you could see the left-hand half of the story, if you broked in advance, signed an official disclaimer, donned a hard hat and climbed the scaffolding that surrounds it. The fabulous sequence of frescoes in San Francesco in Arezzo, under cover for nearly a decade while being lovingly redone by government experts, will not be on full view before the turn of the century. But the bits of the Italian state concerned with the rescue of the Pieros in Arezzo like the recovery and re-presectation of his extraordinary pregnant Madonna in oearby Monterchi - are local and communal, involving specialist agen-

cies operating a long way from

Arezzo and Vicenza, Genoa and Turin: these are inheritors of the Medicis, the city-state tradition, republican and Roman. Not Rome. The Italian nationstate run from the capital works only sporadically. During the mooth to come travellers are going to be hit by strikes by air traffic controllers, police, rail-way workers and petrol distributors, all protesting at national government actions. Even the schools are in danger of seizing up: the Italian education minister has just launched an appeal to try and stop a flood of early retirements by teachers - a result of the latest, rather ineffectual squeeze on state spend-

Confindustria, representing 110,000 medium and big businesses, has pledged "radical opposition" to the decision by Romano Prodi's government to raise corporate taxes rather than cut public spending more. One phrase resonates in Italian political conversation these days

- it is "going down into the piazza", their equivalent of tak-

This is more than Italian politics as perpetual theatre. It's only 11 months since Prodi's ceotre-left Olive Tree coalition took power as yet aoother attempt to cleanse and renew. And yet this weekend its survival beyood the spring looks highly uncertain, though it is still ooe of the shortest-lived administrations since the war.

It was not just that the Prodi government would continue the reform effort. His coalition with the ex-Communists, the Democratic Party of the Left. promised a new start - the first involvement of the left in responsible national government. A year on, the coalition is strained, its policy failures

appareot. It has certainly lost the glow of popularity, According to a poll last weekend, the Prodi coalition would get 40 per ceot of the popular vote if an election were held now, while the tion, led by the media magnate Silvio Berlusconi, would get 46 per cent. Worse than that, the Prodi government has lost its

Its problem is that of all Italian governments since the fall of Benito Mussolini, perhaps since unificatioo in 1869. It is the quality of the compact between oation-state and society. In this bottom-up country, where loyalties and legitimacies are so can the nation bold together without the lubrication of graft and hopelessly extravagant state

National governments everywhere have problems with the balance between the public's willingness to be taxed and its wish for spending - the disjunction in Britain oo this score may yet do for New Labour. But in Italy the fiscal tension is chronic; it seems bound up with

the nature of Italian nationality. After 1945, the Italian state functioned as a machine for cash distribution, legal and illegal. Under Christian Democrats such as Aldo Moro and Giulio Andreotti, and Socialists such as Bettino Craxi, the state bought itself legitimacy, partly through the fabled system of Tangentopoli - you scratch my back with expensively lacquered nails and I'll scratch yours - and by bribing an army of highly

unionised pensioners and beneficiaries, capable of rocking the government by strikes and demonstrations. This army has proved deeply reluctant to pay the taxes needed to keep the structure of payments intact: dodging taxes is a national pastime. In which other EU country does the treasury have its

own dedicated police force? National debt was built up to astronomical levels - the Italian government has long owed wealth of Italy. It is a oation of ing, borrowing and spending. Changes, bond-holders and state

beneficiaries; payments from oublie account are its cement.

To say the Italian system does not work The Prodi government looks to means heavy and sustained any more is too dramatic. Since the fall of the Christian Democrats, brought down by the weight of their corruption, many more hands are clean. Italy does not lack for courageous politicians and that special class of citizens above suspicion who are its investigating judges. Italy functions well enough in the cities and regions. The tensions are national. Regionalism's most radical expression, Umberto Bossi and the Lombard League, was itself created

by Rome's financial disarray.

Resentment at the flow of pub-lic funds to Calabria and Sicily - where the fight against organised crime has a long, long way to go - focuses not on the recipients of aid but the channel through which it flows - Rome.

Italy's problem is simply put: it is nowhere near the equilibrium point in state income and expenditure. The gap is huge. Coolly calculated, real state outlays need to be cut by a quarter to establish a sustainable dle of next year. term balance between tax-

said the other In this bottom-up country, can the day, but adagio. nation hold together without the won't do. The lubrication of graft and hopelessly only tempo that would deliver extravagant state pensions?

> have given up on its effort to do the cutting.
> The Italian fiscal problem

has oothing to do with the advent of the European single currency. It is entirely indigenous. Preparing for the euro has not caused Italy's difficulties it has only illuminated them.

One of the Italian European commissioners, Mario Monti, stated the official position the other day - how could the leading signatory of the Treaty of Rome not be a founding member of the single-currency club?

week cobbled together a spring package of odds and ends that did not do what everyone knows has to be done - engage with the structure of pensions and social spending. It merely nibbled. The Communists would tolerate no serious cuts in social spending the Communistic Communication of the C spending: the ex-Communists (those in the Democratic Party of the Left) are none too keen on cuts either. In theory Prodi could have asked for votes from the Berlusconi crowd but that would probably merely have accelerated the government's

Se ha corrupio tagti il Welfare

- if only he'd the courage to cut
the welfare state, said the apposition. A telling phrase that, Il Welfare. Even lo conceponine their problem the Italians have had to reach for northern European words. The schoolmaster of Italian nationalism, Giuseppe Mazzini, once wrote hanginily about being instructed from abroad in political virtues. He would certainly be contemptuous of the way contemporary Italians somehow hope the European Union can somehow pull their financial chestmuts out of the fire. But the real problem may be Mazzini's - the national state created in his name seems fated to impo-

In Europa, a new novel by Tim Parkes, a long-time resident in Italy, a group of Italian students accompany their teachers to Strasbourg to pray the powers of the European Parliament in aid of reforming their country's decreating univertheir country's decrepit univer-sities. What Rome cannot do, the EU just might. It is a touching faith, shared throughout

The blunt answer, which only diplomatic nicety and banker

discretion have prevented being

said out loud in Frankfurt, Bonn

or London, is that the size of the

necessary Italian adjustment to meet the Maastricht conditions

lies in the realm of political

muscle that keeps the Italian

into the Roman bearpit at the

head of a ramshackle grouping

of parties last May. He was

Rifondazione communista, led

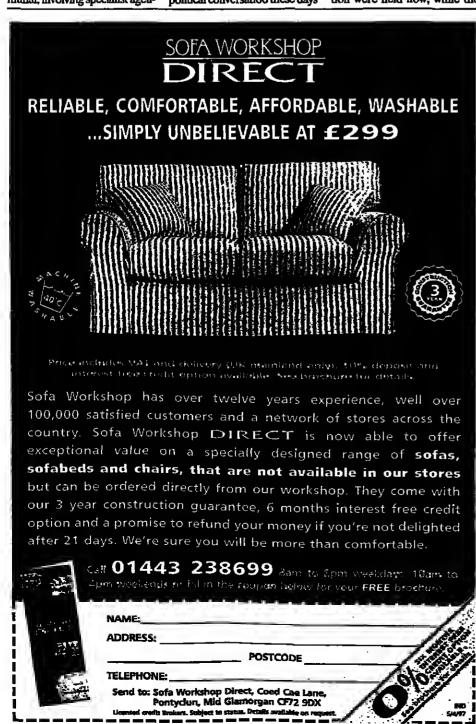
body politic together.

the country.

What Parkes captures is the exaggerated role "Europe" plays in contemporary Italian thinking. It's a sort of ideal self, a Real Presence, shimmering there beyond the Alps.

impossibility. Maastricht requires the Italiao budget But neither an image nor the stuttering institutional realdeficit (just under 7 per cent of GDP at the end of last year) to ity of European Union will help. Nor should they. Whether Italy be cut to 3 per cent by the midmeets the Maastricht criteria is not really the issue - it won't. Italy's question is whether the Prime Minister country can ever be governed Romano Prodi except as oow: its political class constantly peering over the. precipice into political and financial chaos but never quite falling off the ledge; its population unwilling to pay for big the goods is con government but greedy for its fuoco. That

The best thing that could hapspending cuts, eating into the pen to Italy in the next couple of years would be ignominious failure to meet the Maastricht cri-Such work of amputation is teria. Some commentators have beyond Prodi, a Bologna uniwrung their hands at that versity professor parachuted prospect, conjuring a fear that Italy might slide off into a Mediterranean sulk. Would that be such a bad fate, if it led to . political and institutional reconalways going to be damned if he did and damned if he didn't. struction (or Italy's hreakup)? Dependent on votes from The other day Romano Prodi, said Italy needs to "reconstruct., by Fausto Bertinotti (reconits own identity and confront its structed by name but unreconinternal problems in a new fashstructed by nature), Prodi last



# jo brand's wee

Poor old Moby the whale. Not only did it have to suffer the indignity of being given a imagination of a 14-year-old O-level student; its last moments were graced with a stoning by children. This delightful aspect of childhood is easy to forget among media images of children cuddling rabbits in soap powder ads or squealing with delight as the family gets a cat from Per Rescue. The film Free Willy has obviously passed this group of children by. This would explain a sign I saw in a wildlife park when I was in Australia last year. The sign read "Please Do Not Throw Stones At The Alligators". Ah, the joys of childhood.

How fromic that Nottingham has been attempting to attract more German tourists only to have a German family beaten up by a group of drunken youths - not so much a medieval experience as a neanderthal one. I think this is the sort of behaviour encouraged by tabloids who constantly reinforce stereotypes of Europeans, particularly Germans, as ... pushy and covertly power eking. One wonders what

sort of people these youthful morous were. No doubt they had moved on from stoning animals to beating human

it's interesting how a lot of people link bad language with a general decline in standards. Radio Four listeners were outraged this week to hear Anna Ford (at 8.30 in the morning, mind you) describe a character from The Archers as a "shit". Many phoned in and many complained. The ridiculous thing is that most people swear, even if only once a day, as they are going about their lives - it is not just kids or teenagers experimenting with a few Anglo-Saxon oaths to wind up their elders. Actors swear, newsreaders swear and even vicars

probably let the odd expletive slip from time to time. To see the radio and television lot allowing themselves to be held hostage by a handful of Home Counties types about what, after all, is a relatively harmless and, some would say, rather useful word used in relation to The Archers, seems anachronistic. Besides you normally these people who doo't like swearing are the same ones who would quite like to bring back

anging, send black people "home" and castrate gays. I suppose, if I get any letters of complaint about this, at least they won't be telling me to

I see that poor old Mark Radcliffe, who took over from Chris Evans at Radio One. has failed to stop listeners leaving the station in fairly large numbers. I think this is a real shame because, for me, the Mark Radcliffe Show which was on late at night was a breath of fresh air with items one would not normally expect on that station, including poetry (horror of borrors), for example. It seems that Radio One listeners can only survive on a spurious drip-feed of showbiz gossip, bitchiness and schoolboy pranks. Given

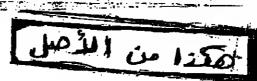
the reign of the Spice Girls at the moment and the popularity of all thines shallow, it seems sad that meone like Mark Radcliffe. who is knowledgeable about music and an interesting bloke, has to suffer the indignity of staunching the leakage of empty heads to

prove his worth.

The glittering array of stars at the Oscars draped in something ridiculous by a famous designer fails miserably to reflect the life of your average working actor dragging him/herself around small provincial theatres. At any time, an enormous proportion of actors are out of work. When they are . employed, they earn well below a decent wage. This is why Equity has been

struggling recently to rectify the situation and increase actors' basic pay and subsistence wages. Equity this week published a list of theatres and theatre companies in which they advise actors not in work for the time being. It is important to support this action fully. because the crosion of theatre infrastructure will leave us English actors and an increase. in the hegemony of America. The English Patient starring Arnie Schwarzenegger and Jean Claude Van Damme? No: thanks.

I would like to pay a brief tribute to my Uncle Les, a Shropshire farmer, who came up perhaps with the most eloquent anti-smoking argument I have heard for a long time. After Sunday dinner, the subject of smoking came up as amoke from the puffers drifted across to the non-puffers. "I have great admiration," said my Uncle Les, "for anyone who has the courage to indulge in a habit which involves committing suicide and murder at the same time." Blimey. And now I'm off to kill some people and myself. Anyone want a fag?



# wicket ways

E . THE IVERTON

Cricket is a Zen activitythe whole point is that little happens



y cricket phase lasted about as long as my religious phase, though it happened several years later. The summer was warm, I hadn't much to do and Botham was at his zenith. I went to a match or two. decorated a house while listening to a Test series, and knew the names of the Middlesex team by heart. For that short period, the pleasures of this peculiar sport were somehow lent to

It didn't last. And, as I read about this week's gloomy editorial in the 134th edition of Wisden's Cricketer's Abnanack, I found myself recalling why I fell out of love so rapidly. The editor, Matthew Engel, laments the decline of the game in England, "In England," he writes, "football has always been more popular than cricket. Ten years ago the gap was a narrow ooe. It is oow a yawning chasm." Why? Partly, according to Engel, because of the decline of the national team, whose petulance and incompeteoce are making It hard for youngsters to

associate with the sport. But, he goes on, this is only part of the sad story. The true crisis is much wider: "The hlunt fact is that cricket in the UK has become unattractive to the vast majority of the population. The game is widely perceived as elitist, exclusionist and dull."

attempt at mitigation by Christopher Martin-Jenkins in yesterday's Daily Telegraph (where élitism, exclusionism and duliness are all much admired) that "only oo Wednesday night Lord Runcie said that there were more cricketers in Yorkshire than in Australia", merely makes Mr Engel's point.

It is surely not helping cricket that this country has not produced a truly great cricketer since Ian Botham. Such long, tedious intervals between short bursts of excitement reminds one of trench warfare and adolescent sex. A rational person would

I think that the game itself is the problem. People find it dull as a spectator sport, because, compared with almost all alternatives, it is

exceptionally dull. In Nineties Britain, our declining leisure time can be filled with the Net, metal-detecting.

American football, advanced cookery, extreme sports - and all of them offering completion in a fraction of what a cricket match requires. On a Saturday, most of us oow expect to be able to watch ooe thing and accomplish two ourselves. We

too compliant."

interviewers.

It is part of the constitution of

this country that all major

events have to be presented by

Dimhleby. You can quote me

With Paxinan what you see is

what you get. He is charming,

amusing, a good raconteur but suffused by the world-weari-ness with which he views politi-cians in general and the elec-

tion preamble in particular. As

might have been construed as

slightly soft. Did that betoken

"Ha!" he says, laughing most

fearsomely. "You're going to have to do better than that if

what my politics are. You're

And what made him invite

But Parman had sounded

get elected. But it is salutary

me?", evokes the languid, post-

a socialist sympathy?

will oot settle for less. So is cricket doomed? Let me tell you a story. In the mid-Eighties, I was watching a match between Surrey and Warwickshire at the Oval. For five hours, I sat there; puzzled and strangely unsatisfied. Then I worked out why - I couldn't see where the ball was. Ever. In soccer, yoo can always see the ball, and it helps.

A cricketing friend of mine felt, however, that this ballhlindness was not a problem. "It doesn't matter," he said. "It's all in the action. The bowler's speed and arm movement tell you where the ball is likely to be going. The reaction of the batsman allows you to deduce how well he has met the challenge. You can still work out whether a good shot was played or a good ball bowled."

"In that case," I replied,
"why not do without the ball altogether? Especially since it is both hard and dangerous. The umpire can judge where whether if was hit and how well it was fielded." My friend demurred on the grounds that the physical ball was still useful in deciding what had

going to have to do a whole lot better than that." actually happened should Blair to give his views oo barebreasted women? "Well, what there be any dispute. But this exchange points to is it like to appear next to all an important truth about these nodes? I just thought it cricket, which the sport's would be fun." desire to compete with others may have obscured. It hugely disapproving of the Blair and Melinda alliance. is a Zen activity. The whole point - the beauty - is that "Nothing surprises me really about what politicians will do to

little happens. To complain of its dullness is like moaning aboot the fact that not much them up against their professed high-mindedness." happens during meditation. The mistake has been to market it as exciting. The answer is to take Wisden off the sports shelves and to make it the higgest attraction in the New Age and Personal Growth section. Chili out,

# 'I can't help how my face looks'



Jeremy Paxman talks to Mary Riddell about sneering journalists, war reporting, depression, loss of faith and his search for purpose, in this excerpt from an interview in the 'New Statesman'

modern sceptic, in thrall to

a wind-up I suggest his ques-tioning of Tony Blair, in his recent Newsnight interviews with the three party leaders, Least of all to those at the BBC who have studied his tactics with occasional alarm and opprohrium. Some time ago John Birt was reported to have upbraided him; and expressed disapproval of "sneering interviewers".

you think I'm going to tell you Paxman has scarcely effected a penitent metamorphosis. "I hate the word sneering. I can't help how my face looks. One has to bear in mind that people have voted for even the most humble backbencher, No one has ever bloody well voted for me. So sneering is oot something I'm happy or comfortable about wheo people use it to describe me. Incredulity, scepticism maybe.

But sucering I doo't like. "My relationship with Birt is a mystery. It's a non-relatioooccasionally to try to bring ship really. We don't really know each other."

His view of the relationship Does Paxman see the highof interviewer to politician has profile journalist as noble been likened to that of dog to truth-seeker in a grubby world? lamp-post. His technique, "Messianic? No. I did have that view, and I got completely overwrought. When I was predicated oo the question Why is that bastard lying to

reporting in Northern Ireland

in the Seventies, I remember coming hack here to comfortable England and being really, really angry that people weren't paying more attention.

Then I did a lot of wars -Nicaragua, El Salvador. People were dying for political beliefs, believe. I really would." got rather screwed up by it. Stressed and depressed."

A mild malaise, or something more serious? The pause is long enough to suggest the latter. "Look, I really don't want to talk about that, actu-There is something else.

Much later, I ask him about the Church of England, and though he dresses it up as an amusing anecdote - he admits to a crisis of faith. "I used to have very little time for it. I started going back to church eight or nine years ago. And then I'm afraid I just lost it. It struck me that I robably was an atheist, so I talked to my local vicar and said: 'Look, I doo't think I'm coming back to church. I don't think there's anyooe there.'

"Do you know what he said? 'This is very positive.' Only the Church of England could come something productive with your

up with that spectacularly worldly and undemanding approach. I love that about

And has he been back? "I go occasionally. About once a month. I still would like to

this is hardly a killer questioo, but he appears genuinely flum-moxed. Wow. Do you know, I've never thought: why do I want to believe this? I suppose because I would like to think there was a purpose. And the experience of depression kind

of convinced me there wasn't." The ootion of purpose-seeking does rather explain Paxman. His last book, Friends in High Places - a critique of the British establishment - posed the question of where the natioo should look for a new vision, but found oo answer. Paxman is still searching. "The problems of this country are so profound that they can't be solved simply by changing the elected government. The British share of world trade has declined, and there are still the same prejudices against doing

life; the same unfashionability about genuine enterprise."
For all his impatience, Pax-

man is an odd sort of outsider. Both his hackground (public school, Cambridge) and his manner suggest sturdy estab-lishment ties. He is offended

"That's for others to judge. That's like saying Tooy Blair can't be leader of the Labour Party, Look at Benn. Look at Attlee. I dislike class prejudice in reverse as much as I dislike it when it's expressed in the conventional way."

But to make him sound pompous is unfair. He is also self-deprecating; particularly oo his unfulfilled ambitioo. "I would have loved to be able to write fiction. We all have our self-delusions. Bamber Gascoigne thought he was a writer who had to do a bit of televi- Copyright 'New Statesman'

sion. I think to some extent Melvyn [Bragg] thinks he's a writer rather than a media per-

I oever did find out exactly what Paxman's politics are, although he did say at ooe stage: "I think people should vote, doo't you?" as if he wasn't entirely convinced.

It is in any case unlikely that he, so attuned to the ways of politicians, sees any party as offering the hig answer. Who does he really admire? After we talked about religion, he mentioned the "priests and ouns working in townships in South Africa. They're so inspiring. And they're doing something so much more worthwhile than the completely superficial and temporal concerns we have in our trade.'

# Let me tell you about being Scottish

can no longer live a he. I am com-mg out of the closet. I have shared my secret with my wife, and more importantly, with my children. But yesterday's absurd fuss over Tony Blair's comments has provoked me to stand up and declare myself publicly. Yes, I am a Scot. As such, I claim the right to a say in the future of Scotland, especially when those who claim to speak for Scots and Scottish aspirations to nationhood have so comprehensively

Where my parents grew up, there are few families which were not the recipients, willing or unwilling, of the genes of the Scotsmen and Welshmen who ran the Empire. My great-greatgrandmother, born a slave, probably had never heard of Scotland when she met the sea-captain who fathered her umpteenth child. It is no accident that the men in my family carry names like Ivor, Angus and Mac, and so many hlack people have names like Mac-Donaid, Phillips and Stewart. I am, by genetic inheritance and by culture, a romantic nationalist. And the abuse of that precious inheritance by mere politicians makes my blood boil.

The Old Nat politicians - and they are to be found in all parties other than the Tories - are muddled and outdated: They are no longer sure whether it is history, geography or ethnicity that drives their claim for self-government. As a result, they still cannot answer the socalled "West Lothian Questioo" - why should Scottish and Welsh MPs at Westminster have the right to vote on English matters once they have their

ti star.

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own parliaments? own partiaments?

Nor have they explained why devolution would leave their people better off Professor Douglas McWilliams, in



**Trevor Phillips** 

Forget about devolution today's tribes are spread across the globe. The modern nationalist needs a satellite dish. not a state

his research for the City of London Corporatioo, reckons the flow of money out of London to be about £6bn each year. Scotland and Wales are major beneficiaries. Government sources say that both countries take more from the Exchequer than they give back. Does anyone imagine that the London government promised by both Labour and the Lib Dems would simply keep writing the cheques with a cheery flourish? Not on your nelly. And if they don't, will the right to levy 3p in the pound make up the result-

ing deficit? No way, Jose. There is a simple and compelling argument for administrative devolution. It is that government closer to the people is better, more effective government. But, the problem for the Old Nats is that the same set of arguments applies to virtually every other part of the UK. Physically, you can draw a line around the Black Country or Cumbria just as convincingly as around Wales or Scotland. Cardiff, as a centre of population, is nearer to London than Newcastle. Within Europe, Scotland looks much the same as the North-West of England, seen from Brussels.

But the Old Nats want to go to international conferences and pose as statesmen. So they fall back on the historic tradition. One wing of that tra-dition is institutional - the law and education particularly. We know that Scottish law is different. But that difference has been eroded over time, and the encroachment of EU competence will erode it faster. Eventually, the unique legal framework of Scotland will principally be a matter of archaic legal jargon. As far as education is concerned, it may only be a matter of time before England and Wales grasp that

dition is what people now call "national identity". This constitutes the melange of cultural inheritance, speech, religion and just sheer tribalism, all traceable to an historic piece of land and water. The trouble for the Old Nats is that this justification for their ambitions is also

To start with, Scotland and Wales are just as susceptible to globalisation as anywhere else. They have abandoned the kilt for Levis and their children turn up their noses at haggis when pre-sented with a McDonald's. Second, they are divided; too many people in the northern half of Scotland dislike Edinburgh as heartily as they do London, and distrust it more. The same is true of north Wales and Cardiff. Third, Scottishness and Welshness are increasingly spread outside the traditional borders; if Labour wins, its three most dominant figures - Blair, Brown, Cook - will all be Scots. And, fourth, the Old Nats' conception of devolution offers no promise to those outside the borders of Scotland and Wales who feel themselves to be part of those nations. Do we get postal votes in the elections, or is this a propertybased franchise, in which secondhome owners have rights oot available to people who can trace their ancestry back two centuries?

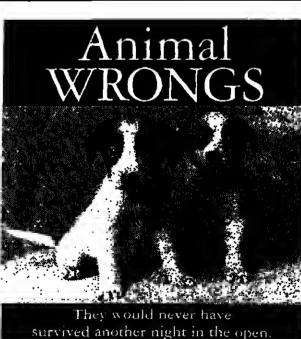
To make matters worse for Old Nats caught up in the romantic tradition, there are stronger claimants to an undiluted historic tradition in modern Britain. Two million dedicated British Muslims are estitled to ask why it is lim in the new Parliament, while a sim- do nicely, thank you.

the Scots system is so superior that it is adopted wholesale across the UK.

The other wing of the historic traclaim a Welsh heritage – can demand 30 members of Parliament, a government of their own and a £3bn subsidy.

If the response is that the coincidence of population and geography is the key, the Old Nats are missing what is going on in the world. I know from my own experience that nationhood scends geography - a lesson that Irish and Jewish nationalists have exploited hrilliantly for most of this century; arguably, their greatest achievements have not been the establishment of Jewish or Irish states, but the creation of rich, vibrant and modern global tribes. Take also, for example, the success of East African Asians - built on the existence of a 150 million-strong diaspora that stretches across three continents, sharing common tastes, buying the same goods, watching the same films. In my own global tribe, it is no surprise to me that the top TV show among black South Africans (New York Undercover) is the same as that among African-Americans and probably among black Britons who can see it on satellite, yet the show is unknown to white audiences.

If the Tories lose, there will be devolution. But after the first flourish of ceremony, the real symbols of Scottishness and Welshness are as likely to be found on cable or satellite TV as they are in the talk shops of Cardiff or Edinburgh, doomed to be starved of cash by Whitehall, and destined to be overruled by Westminster and Brussels. The truth is that the modern nationalist doesn't need another stuffy debating chamber. A that they can expect, at hest, one Mus-modem, a PC and a satellite dish will



Bent and Bonney - two tiny puppies, were found shivering and terrified in a ditch on a freezing December night. Pitifully thin and covered in weeping sores, it seemed they had never known

The Blue Cross gave them the first kindness they had known, as well as urgently-needed veterinary care. After several weeks with us, the pups made a full recovery.

To treat, feed and care for the pups cost around £150. The Blue Cross relies entirely on your generosity to continue its life-saving work. Your monthly gift of £2 or more could help save

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Please send me more information about how I can help animals like Beni and Bonney by making a gift to The Blue Cross. Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss).
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# business & city

# **GEC** may get round French 'non' to bid

Patrick Tooher London John Lichfield

The French government yes-terday vetoed for reasons of "national security" a takeover hid by GEC for Thomson-CSF, the defence electronics division of the state-owned electronics group, Thomson SA.

But the bugely convoluted privatisation process took yet another twist when the British company later revealed it was in talks with Alcatel Alsthom and Lagardère, the two giants of the French military-industrial complex, which have been allowed to proceed with their rival hids for Thomson-CSF.

In a statement GEC said that while it regretted the decision to reject its preliminary bid for Thomson-CSF, it had "received encouragement from the French government to enter into discussions" with the two preferred French bidders. The process has already started," GEC continued.

Alcatel, the space and tele-coms group bidding in conjunc-tion with French plane maker Dassault, confirmed it was in contact with GEC, though Lagardère declined to comment. Although widely expected, the refusal to allow GEC to go

special

on to the final stage of hidding on its own was a public embarrassment for the French government, and Finance Minister Jean Arthuis, who are campaigning for a stronger "European defence identity".

It is the second time in four months it has turned down a potential foreign buyer for a part of the Thomson group. France was accused of discriminating against foreigners when it blocked plans by Lagardère to sell on Thomson's consumer electronics division to Daewoo Electronics of Korea after an outery from French workers, industrialists and opposition politicians.

"The ceding of more than 50 per cent of Thomson-CSF capital to a foreign company would be contrary to vital national security interests," the French finance ministry said, admitting, for the first time, that GEC, led by George Simpson, managing director, had made a initial bid.

But the ministry went on to encourage the successful bidders to announce plans for partnerships and joint ventures with companies in other European countries. The French



GEC's move has been inter-Lord Prior, GEC's chairman preted in France not as a real bid but as a dramatic means of expressing the British company's

lowing recent consolidation in the US defence industry.

stressed the need to bring together GEC-Marconi and Thomson-CSF to create a world leader in defence electronics fol-"The fragmented structure of ations and effective in the dethe European defence elec-

tronics industry will not sustain a strong competitive position in world markets in the next century," he said "This can be achieved only though an integrated electronics defence canability efficient in its operployment of its resources."

GEC already has large shared interests with Thomson-CSF in the development of sonars and radars and has joint ventures with both the successful first-stage bidders.

British Aerospace, GEC's great rival, yesterday indicated its continued support for

must be made by 7 May.

Lagardère, with whom BAe has a larger joint venture in missiles, in its bid for Thomson-CSF. A final decision on who takes the 58.2 per cent of Thomson-CSF shares owned by the gov-ernment, valued at £1.3bn,

# US jobs figures renew

A further fall in US unem-ployment last month, and fresh hints of inflationary wage pres-sure, gave Wall Street yet an-other bout of jutters yesterday that the Federal Reserve will be forced to raise interest rates again when it meets next

After the Labor Department reported a 0.1 per cent drop in reported a tripper cent drop in the jobless rate to 5.2 per cent in March, the post-Easter week was ending in the same nervous mood it had begun for the financial markets, amid gyrating prices and debate over whether the 8 per cent decline in the Dow since its peak last month was a correction, or a month was a correction, or a signal that a bear market had

After an initial plunge of 70 points the Dow briefly struggled back into positive territory, before furching back to a loss of over 20 points by mid-session. In the bond market, the benchmark 30-year treasury bond moved lower, losing 21/32 points after two hours of trading. Its yield, which moves in the opposite direction, was up from 7.07 to 7.12 per cent.

For analysts the unemployment figures sent two contrasting messages. The overall drop was exactly as expected and the number of new nonfarm jobs created, at 175,000, actually lower than predicted. But in a market searching for bad news, the focus was on a 5 cent rise in hourly earnings, af-

ter an identical rise in February. Thus far a 4 per cent rise in wages over the last 12 months bas translated into growth of 3 per cent or less in consumer prices. But the Fed is known to follow developments in hourly earnings when setting its interest rate policy, and a second consecutive small rise in shortterm rates is reckoned at least an even-money bet when the Fed's Open Market Committee next meets on 20 May.

"It's not a frightening report," Robert Dederick of the Northern Trust Company is Chicago said yesterday, "but it's not a relaxing one. It keeps us very much on our guard, and points to another Fed tightening in May." Adding to market nervousness, the Fed's vice-chairman, Alice Rivlin, said this week that the economy continued to grow strongly in the first quarter, after the revised 3.8 per cent GDP growth in the final quarter of 1996.

(4.0 cm)

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This is well above the 2.5 per cent expansion the Fed tradi-tionally believes is the maximum that can be achieved without rekindling inflation - though vesterday the House Speaker, Newt Gingrich declared that Congress would seek a target annual growth of 4 or 5 per cent from the Fed's chairman, Alan

#### government hoped the Thominterest in such future deals and as a statement of concern that son sale would be the starting point for the restructuring of the European industry should not be reconstructed mostly as both the French and European military electronics industries. a series of national champions. Mexican snag halts rise | Delta picks Rolls-Royce Caledonia pays £25m

dividend

John Willcock Caledonia Investments, the financial group backed by the wealthy Cayzer family, yesterday declared a 30p special dividend worth around £25m to shareholders, and brought for-ward its final dividend of 12.8p

normally paid in August. Observers in the City interpreted it as pre-empting any ac-tions by a possible Labour Government to tighten up Inland Revenue rules on special dividends. The Cayzers are high profile supporters of the Tories, and Caledonia donates £50,000 a year to Conservative Party

Peter Buckley, chairman and chieferecutive of Caledonia, said the special dividend was a "once off and had received elearance for the Inland Revenue.

"We're making the payment to reflect the growth in the value of our funds. Our balance sheet has grown by about 76 per cent over the last four and a half years, and if you add back in goodwill we've written off on acquisitions that climbs to about

Mr Buckley said the Revenue had agreed to the payment not least because Caledonia was announcing it just as it was going ex-dividend, so that investors would not have been able to pile into the stock because of it.

Caledonia's shares fell 11p to 753.5p yesterday. Martin Cross, an analyst at UBS, said this was a good performance considering the 30p payment. "The shares are still trading at a 26 per cent discount if you add back all the goodwill and consider the con-servative accounting policies."

# of British-Borneo shares to power Boeing planes

Magnus Grimond

The rise and rise in the share price of British-Borneo Petroeum Syndicate was brought to an abrupt halt yesterday after the announcement of an uncommercial oil find in the Gulf of Mexico, source of some of the oil group's most successful recent oil investments. The news that the explo-

ration well drilled on the Green Canyon 37 prospect had produced oil which was too beavy to produce commercially is the first real bad news to hit the group during 18 months when the share price has multiplied more than seven times. Having hit an all-time high of

£15.42 only on Tuesday, the shares plunged 148.5p to £13.91 esterday. The fall wiped almost £95m from the company's stock market value, taking it down to

But Alan Gaynor, chief executive, attempted to salvage something positive from the announcement. "We believe around six months.



the result of this well is very much anomalous for this region

of the Gulf of Mexico." Other wells within a few miles of Green Canyon 37 had shown oil reserves of much lighter oil. "Together with our partners, we will now be conducting a thorough review of the additional drilling opportunities in the area in the light of this result, before moving forward." The review is expected to take

British-Borneo is the operator of the Green Canyon 37 block, where it owns a 40 per cent "working interest", alongside partners Kerr-McGee Corporation and the Consolidated Natural Gas Company. The 14,430 foot well recov-

ered oil samples at 8.6 degrees API, a measure of the liquid's thickness, which compares with 20 to 30 degrees on nearby finds. One analyst said they would be lucky to get this oil out of the ground. "This is a huge surprise. There is not a big history of finding that weight of oil in the Gulf

of Mexico. It's almost certaingoing to be uncommercial." NatWest Securities analyst Ian Reid said the well, drilled on one of a cluster of six blocks in the area, could have been worth 90p a share on British-Borneo's net asset value if it had helped prove up potential additional reserves put at 50m barrels.

The company said yesterday that, had the oil been commercial, those reserves would have been 100 million barrels.

Chris Godsmark

Rolls-Royce's expanding order book was given another strong boost yesterday with the announcement that Delta Air Lines had become the first US carrier to select the British group's Trent engines to power future orders of the Boeing 777 long-range passenger jet.

Analysts estimated that if Delta, one of the world's largest airlines, decided to press ahead with possible orders for 10 of the 777-200 airliners, each powered by two Trent 800 engines, it would value the agreement with Rolls-Royce at up to \$500m (£313m). The news followed Delta's

landmark announcement last month of orders with Boeing for more than 600 aircraft over the next 20 years. The carrier already has a long-standing part-nership with Rolls-Royce, buying the older RB211 engine to power its Boeing 757 aircraft. Though Rolls-Royce devel-

ceived most orders to power the plane from far eastern carriers. Last year Emirates, the international airline of the United Arab Emirates, signed a deal to buy 28 Trent engines. Early this year Emirates also placed a £500m order for further Treats to power 16 Airbus A330 airliners. The Delta agreement, which

makes it the eighth carrier to

777 in mind, until now it has re-

combine Trent power technology with the 777, is likely to bolster Rolls-Royce's push to match the market share of its rival, Pratt & Whitney of the US. So far Pratt & Whitney has grabbed the lion's share of orders to power 777s with Rolls-Royce - on 32 per cent - ahead of the other main jet manufacturer, General Electric. The latest agreement means Roils-Royce has almost 300 engine orders for the 777 alone.

News of the potential orders helped Rolls-Royce shares to Though Rolls-Royce developed the Trent engine with the 245p. The shares were also

to have agreed to sell Parsons to Siemens for a price tag of around £30m. Industry sources last night said the official sale announcement would not emerge until at least the end of this week. Negotiations between the two sides have dragged on

buoyed up by rumours of an

imminent deal by the company

to sell its Parsons steam turbine

business to Siemens, the Ger-

man electrical engineering giant.

Rolls-Royce is already thought

much longer than expected, with unions at the plant pressing Rolls-Royce to say whether there will be any further job cuts before Parsons officially changes bands. Doubts still hang over the future of another 400 staff at the Tyneside site, which is close to

Siemen's brand new £1bn micro-chip plant. have already dropped by more

Staff numbers at Parsons than 400 since Rolls-Royce put the historic business up for sale

#### Greenspan. The March jobless rate was the lowest for five months.

# Sainsbury dumps plans to enter gas and electricity market

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent** 

The J Sainsbury supermarket group is understood to have unexpectedly abandoned plans to sell gas and electricity to its customers in the emerging compentive domestie market.

Sainsbury has ended detailed talks which began late last year with several regional electricity companies (RECs), aimed at forging partnerships in the newly established compentive gas market. Around 2 million

households are able to choose rival suppliers to British Gas in the south of England as part of on-going competition trials. So far almost 250,000 have

switched to new gas companies. The news of Sainsbury's change of mind over energy retailing is likely to stun and delight both its arch-rival, Tesco, along with the many independent gas supply companies which feared the big supermarkets would squeeze them out of the market.

out tender documents offering partnership discussions with several RECs which had been expanding into the gas market and had been holding face-toface talks during January and February. The aim was to offer gas and electricity in stores across the UK, as the market moves to full domestic compe

tinon next year.

Last month the negotiations were broken off, with Sainsbury informing potential partners

autumn that Sainsbury had sent ceed with gas retailing and, by implication, the sale of electricity. A spokeswoman for Sainsbury said: "We don't rule out any opportunities but at this stage we have no plans to enter the energy market. However things are still being considered - we never say

> One source close to the talks said: "If Sainsbury were going to sell gas they would have done something by now ready for a full launch in September or October. "The fact that they

means the market is open for Tesco, though they are too good at keeping their intentions

Although Tesco has been the only big supermarket chain to regularly attend monthly competition meetings organised by the gas watchdog, Ofgas, the store group's views on the energy market remain a mystery. A Tesco representative has been present at seminars held by Ofgas's Domestic Competition Focus Group, although

appear to have got cold feet the company is thought to have been concerned about unfavourable press coverage of the first competition trial in the south-west last year, where some homes were mistakenly sent huge final bills from British

Another concern for the supermarkets is the level of profit they can make from energy retailing. Although new suppliers are able to undercut British Gas by as much as 20 per cent because of lower gas purchase costs, the compentive advantage

with electricity competition, due to start from next April, is much smaller.

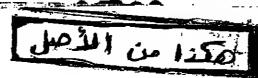
Other retailers have already entered the gas market, ineluding Dixons, which recently did a deal with the independent gas company Amerada Hess. Customers can sign up to receive gas from Amerada from Currys stores at the same time as buying washing machines using the chain's staff. They will get discounts of 15-18 per cent with other schemes to fix prices or gain loyalty bonuses.

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METHE LONG WEEKEND Paring too much for your pension Companies are milking hundreds of distributers in heavy charges. First out istop it. coaranteed investment products are they preparing for building socie moralis. Ali in today's Long Weekend section: pages 23-28. **UNIT TRUST PRICES** foday's full listing also appears in the Long Weekend, page 27,





# JEREMY WARNER

'A large number of those who think they are saving in an appropriate way for their old age are in for a rude awakening. Regulators need to do much more to curtail

the industry's sharp

and misleading

selling practices'

# Pension schemes rip-off is still alive and well The insurance industry has done much to clean up its act since the pensions misselling scandal of the late 1980s and early or another are unable to keep up contributions. The effect of this is to hit the very large number of people who for one reason or another are unable to keep up contributions. And there are big rewards for the first to come up with a fairer, low cost product.

selling scandal of the late 1980s and early 1996s, but as our front page story and per-sonal finance pages show, the wider scandal of mis-sold pensions continues apace, and quite legitimately too.

There is an important distinction to be made here. We are not accusing the insurance industry of persisting with the sort of mis-selling practices that led to the present wave of compensation claims. In those cases, people were persuaded to opt out of perfectly good occupational schemes and buy private personal pensions when they would have done much better to stay put. If such practices were still continuing, that

really would be a story.

But what our investigations do show is that for a very large number of people targeted by the industry – up to a third of personal pensions sold – these products continue to be a wholly inappropriate way of saving. In many of these cases the purchaser will actually end up losing money; they would have done better to have saved through a unit trust, PEP, or even a conventional building society account - and that's even after the tax hreaks allowed on contributions into a pension scheme.

The reason for this is that like most life

tions for the lifetime of the product. Many of those who stop contributing after two years will lose money in the absence of very exceptional investment returns, and even some of those who persist with contributions for as long as five years will lose out.

In other words, personal pensions are a waste of money for up to a third of purchasers. What is more, in the case of "with-profits" pensions, the high penalties involved for those who fail to keep up with contri-butions are used to inflate the eventual returns promised in the literature to those who go the distance. Put another way, one class of pensioner is being ripped off to subsidise another; what it amounts to is a kind of well-meaning Ponzi scheme.

The wider conclusion in be drawn from all this is an obvious and oft stated one - that personal pensions as presently constituted offer only a very limited solution to the growing problem of how to pay for retirement. A large number of those who think they are saving in an appropriate way for their old age are in for a rude awakening. Regulators need to do much more to curtail the industry's sharp and misleading selling practices. It's no good saying but it's all down there in the assurance products, the up-front charges are small print. Investors need to be told, unam-so high that early contributions count for bignously, in the nature of a government

rance's "non" to GEC's bid for a majority
stake in the defence electronics firm Thomson CSF was perhaps to be expected from a country which has yet to throw off its de registre past. The surprise is in the unashamedly brazen way in which it was done. For GEC hasn't been ruled out on a technicality, or because its bid is too low, or even hecause it threatened larger job cuts than its two French rivals for the government-owned stake. No, GEC has been shut out because it is British. It's a decision that Charles de Gaulle could have been proud of, and lamentably, as far as the cause of European integration is concerned, France is probably

within its rights in making it.

National defence is one of the few areas of commerce which is given a dispensation from the rules of the single market, which generally require all European member countries to be treated equally. Never mind that what France is doing is against the spirit of the European Union or Britain's new-found "special relationship" with France on defence matters. I thought that Britain and France were meant to be sharing military intelligence, strategy, technology and even equipment these days. Apparently only if France remains in the driving seat.

Pro-European though this newspaper is, it's enough fair to make the blood boil and can only add grist to the mill of those who cynically claim that full European integration is just an impossible dream. Further evi-dence of this backward-looking and nationalistic approach to industrial issues is provided by news that Aérospatiale is preparing to oppose plans to turn Airbus into an independent limited company.

Aérospatiale wants things to remain

broadly as they are, with Airbus just a con-sortium of nationally controlled European companies. Aérospatiale is also vetoing proposals to appoint headhunters to find senior Airbus executives regardless of nationality. Traditionally the chairman has always been German and the managing director French.

Still, we shouldn't be too negative and jin-goistic about all this. The door is being left ajar to GEC which is being encouraged by French officials to seek alliances or even form a consortium with one of the two rival French hidders for Thomson. This is progress of sorts and perhaps the most GEC could realistically have hoped for. All the same, it's no substitute for the root and branch consolidation of the defence industry which is going on in the United States. It is to be hoped that France eventually comes to see the sense of cross border defence mergers, for the fragmented nature

ing as a matter of urgency. Regrettably, it's plainly going to take time.

wo swallows do not a summer make and ■ the Serinus Fraud Office's two notable successes in the courts this week won't of themselves redeem this beleaguered organisation. None the less, the SFO has shown skill and some cunning in hringing the dreadful Abbas Gokal to book over the BCCI collapse.

Everyone tends to forget that the BCCI affair was the world's largest fraud, but after an initial burst of saturation coverage plus some good nld-fashinned Bank of England bashing, the press rather lost interest in the whole thing. The reason for this is a rather unsavoury one. Not to put too fine a point on it, it was because those involved in the fraud and affected by it were largely people with funny sounding foreign names that

nobody had ever heard nf. Most of us had heard of Mr Gnkal, however, for he was a flamboyant figure on the London and international scene. Quite where the SFO got the information it needed to haul him off a secret flight from Pakistan to the US while on a Frankfurt stopover is something of a mystery, but it was a master stroke none the less enabling one of the world's biggest thieves to be brought

# SFO landmark successes may not silence critics

#### John Wilicock

The much-derided Serious Fraud Office (SFO) won two landmark court room cases this veek, sending hotelier Robert Feld to jail for eight years and convicting Abbas Gokal in the world's biggest fraud case. But will this be enough to silence the SFO's legion of critics?

Ever since its founding in the 1980s as the agency to clean up big business frauds, the SFO has rocked from one failure to the

There were howls of outrage when Roger Levitt was coovicted of fraud and seotenced to just 180 hours' community service. And there was eveo greater public disillusionment when Kevin and Ian Maxwell were acquitted after an eightmonth trial that cost the taxpayer more than £20m.

offices this week following the double win. "It's heen a great week for the SFO," declared for the prosecution of Gokal for

\$1.2bn of fraud. The SFO's line is that its futhis week's successes. They point to the Davy Report two years ago which was accepted by both the Government and the Opposition, which backed the SFO in its present form.

But then came Maxwell, and the old criticisms were aired ooce again. Was the SFO's structure, using teams of ac-countants, solicitors and police the right one? Was the evidence produced at trials too complicated for juries to understand? Were the SFO's special powers Losing a case does not occ-

There was oo disguising the documents and answer ques-delight at the SFO's Elm Street tions too draconian? Would it tions too draconian? Would it not be best to just accept that the SFO had failed, and merge into another body such as the Chris Dickson, case controller. Crown Prosecution service or a

ture was already assured before who retires this month as bead the Securities and Futures Authority), admits that Maxwell was a big set-hack. But he points ont that the SFO has a duty to prosecute all cases of serious fraud where there is eveo a reasonable chance of success. He points to press criticism of the Crown Prosecution Service's failure to prosecute certain cases where the evidence is

to require people to produce essarily mean it was wrong to be has achieved."

oot water-tight.

Who will be in EMU? The financial markets' view

bring it, he insists. He is de-lighted at the two successes this week, particularly in terms of the large numbers of victims involved. "But I think the SFO

Crown Prosecution service or a new financial regulator?
George Staple, the litigation lawyer from Clifford Chance who retires this mouth as bead of the SFO to make way for Pacific William (No. 1) and the service or a strength of the service or a strength or a str Rosalinde Wright (previously of some fellow-investigators to duh it "the Senious Farce Office", is surprisingly at odds with perceptions inside many financial regulators.

One regulator commented yesterday: "Inside the regulatory system the SFO is seeo as quite successful, and that this success is largely unsung. Obviously the Maxwell and Levitt cases were seen as unsuccessful. But I think on the whole George Staple deserves credit for what



In the hot seat: Rosalinde Wright is soon to head the SFO

Anything around the 17 to 18 in the UK, which have turned

similar.

ceivers.

it into the country's third-

largest operator, the group

oow owns six day visitor at-

tractions, including Cheddar Gorge and the Needles, and

two caravan parks in France. Mr Mason said that after an

increase in values in the UK.

prices of parks were now much

more attractive across the

Channel, where the yields are

Queensborough is expected to announce within the next

week that it is huying anoth-

er park in France from re-

Caravans chipped in oper-ating profits of £2.6m last

year, mostly from acquisitions

during the year.
The visitor attractions

added £1.75m, including £1m

from Pleasurewood Hills, near Lowestoft, picked up a year ago, while the Hotel Burstin

in Folkestone chipped in a

maiden £1.3m.

Gearing of 80 per cent is expected to fall to 66 per cent

by the year-end. Four directors

increased their shareholdings

in the group yesterday, with Mr Leech lifting his stake

black after 13 years

Mr Guthrie's brief is to add

organic growth to Queens-

horough's existing mature

businesses of caravan parks

and day visitor attractions.

building up its own hrand and

its own p/e, according to Mr

They were lnoking at the

Italian food sector in a town

centre format, with the typical

restaurant size around 150

The model was Pizza Ex-

press, where the typical spend is £10 a head, rather than Piz-

zaland, where it is more like

His comments came as

Queensborough announced that pre-tax profits of £3.59m replaced losses of £996,000 in

the year to January, thought to be the first time sioce the company went public in 1984

that it had been in the black.

is being paid from earnings per

A maiden dividend of 0.3p

Mason.

IN BRIEF

Tommy Hilfiger, the leading US sportswear fashion business, filed a writ in London for damages and compensation against Little-woods Warehouses, part of Littlewoods, Britain's largest private retail and leisure group. Tommy Hilfiger said it was taking legal action after Littlewoods Warehouses refused to give undertakings pertaining to the sale of counterfeit Tommy Hilfiger clothing. Littlewoods Home Shopping said it would not knowingly sell any counterfeit merchandise and was investigating a complaint

Littlewoods sued over 'counterfeits'

by Tommy Hilfiger. It said it would not knowingly sell hranded products that were oot originals.

### Break for the Border to raise £6m

Break for the Border Group, the music, theatre and restaurants business, announced a one-for-four rights issue of up to £6.58m new ordinary shares at 51p. It aims to raise £3m net of expenses, £1.3m to develop the Break for the Border restaurant and bar concept. £1.7m would be used to redeuce debt. Charterhouse Tilney Securities has fully underwritten the issue. The company said it expected earnings per share for the year to March 1998 to be diluted. It added that earnings per share for the following year should be enhanced following a full year of trading from at least one oew Break for the Border veoue.

### LucasVarity acquisition

Lucas Varity, the global engine, aftermarket and aerospace group, said it had acquired the friction manufacturing business Remsa for its aftermarket division. Remsa's oet asset value, excluding cash, was £19m at 31 March. It has operations in both Spain and the USA. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

### John Lewis food sales soar

John Lewis Partnership said food sales were up 19 per cent in the week to 29 March compared with the same period last year. Department store sales rose 4.4 per cent on the same measure. Total sales in the week were up 11.7 per ceot year oo year. For the nine weeks to 29 March department store sales were up 8.3 per cent year on year, food sales were up 6.7 per cent and total sales were up 7.2 per cent.

### Wiggins parks off in Lancaster

Lancaster City Council is to grant outline planning permission to the 22-acre Lancaster Business Park being developed by the Wiggins Group and Tyne Tees Properties, part of Reg Vardy, according to Wiggins. The park has a gross development value of over £20m and will have up to 250,000 sq ft of huilt space. Whitbread is to build a 60-bed Travel Inn and a Beefeater restaurant oo 2.16 acres of the park. Detailed negotiations are under way with prospective occupiers for a petrol filling station and office accommodadon, Wiggins said.

### BTP Chemicals buy approved

The Department of Trade and Industry approved the acquisitinn of Alpha Beta by BTP Chemicals and the takeover of Westhury Hotels by Chelsfield. The acquisitions of Harrisons & Sons by De La Rue and of Radio Wyvern by GWR Group were also approved. The acquisitions of Firststeel Holdings by British Steel. and of Southampton Citybus by FirstBus also would not be referred to Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

### Lyons quits Abbey National

Alastair Lyons has resigned as managing director of Ahbey National's insurance division. He is to become chief executive of another financial services provider. Charles Toner, deputy chief executive, will take over responsibilities for both the life division, hased in Glasgow, and Bradford-hased General Insurance op-erations, based in Bradford.

### Lex Services 'satisfactory'

Lex Services said it was satisfied with its performance in the first quarter. Sir Trevor Chinn, chairman, told the annual meeting that all businesses had increased their profits and Hyundai's market As well as 13 caravan parks from 29.4 to 29.9 per ceot. share in the first quarter had exceeded 1 per cent.

# German boost • for EMU

### Yvette Cooper

European finance ministers and central bankers are meeting in Noordwijk this weekend to discuss the future of the single curreocy after a quiet week for EMU speculation in the financial markets. But it was nevertheless a sig-

nificaot week on the single currency front. Bruce Kasman of JP Morgan said: "This week may turn out to have been the week in which the wave of EMU pessimism crested." German data on manufac-

turing orders and industrial production were surprisingly positive, reinforcing the view that German growth is bouncing back and that delay might be less likely after all. As a result our graph shows bond yields for Italy and Spain converging on Germany once

Chancellor Kohl's announcement that he will be standing for re-election caused little market response but analysts claimed it was extremely

Mr Kasman commented: "It takes one of the major risks out

Foreign Exchange Rates

7-5 61-563 232-61 232-61 26-42 99-85 24-20 15-10 250-190 85-77 5-1

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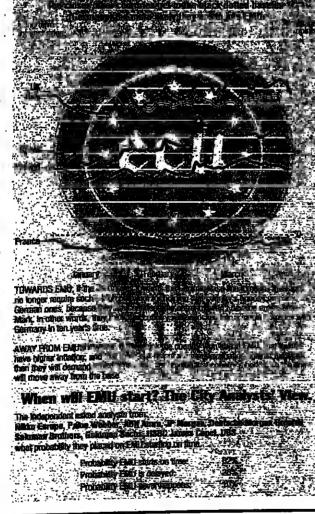
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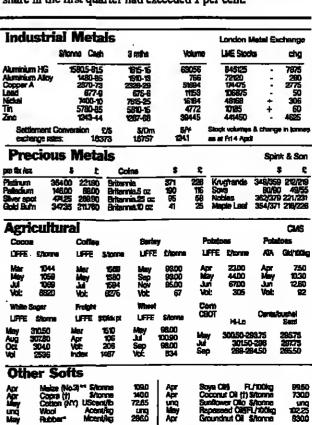


# Queensborough in the

### Magnus Grimond Queensborough Holdings, the leisure group in effect coo-trolled by Kevin Leech, the hiotechnology multi-millionaire, yesterday moved to damp expectations that it was ready to hid for a restaurant chain as it announced its first dividend and profit for 13 years. Speculation about a possihle acquisitioo grew in February after the group appointed Michael Guthrie, the man behind the Brightreasons restaurant group, with a brief to huild up a new "leisure dining" eg for the business. But in the wake of the sale by Whithread, Brightreasons' new owner, of its Pizza Piaz-za chain to management for £11.25m last month, Queensborough was yesterday sug-gesting that prices had got a little out of hand. Philip Mason, who joined the group as chief executive in 1995 from Marina Developments, said they had heen looking at other groups, but

on Oil	Jatous Diepet, 1983 p. Dir flund Time 225 de 265 papetes: 2005		looking the prid had bee	said the at other ce-earning to too high are not pro price-earn	groups, gs multi th. epared to	but The re ples year in v transform pay over £45.	esults ca which the med itse m of acqu	me after e group he elf throug uisitions. ravan pari	as gh
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# market report / shares

### FISE 100 4236.6 + 22.0 FTSE 250 4514 + 10.2 **FTSE 350** 2092.4 + 0.6 SEAQ VOLUME

64,640 bargains

Share spotlight

# British-Borneo 'tar' find puts skids under oil sector

Oils, after a gushing perfor-mance, are under pressure as crude prices hit a nine month low. With high-flying British-Borneo Petroleum Syndicate coming to grief after a disap-pointing drilling report, the sec-tor suddenly looks vulnerable. British Petroleum, riding at 748 50 coding this way full 130

748.5p earlier this year, fell 13p to 670.5p and Shell lost 8p to 1,033.5p. Oils underperformed the rest of the stock market with most in ragged retreat.
It was all so different from

price pushed relentlessly high-er and takeover speculation engulfed the sector. Although there was a sprinkling of takeover activity -Gulf Canada's successful £494m strike for Clyde Petro-leum was the main event - the bid talk has died down as a host of rumoured foreign predators

the heady days when the crude

get, fell 6p to 218.5p; it hit 262.5p in January. British-Borneo tumbled 148.5p to 1,391.5p after revealing one of its Gulf of Mexico prospects had produced poor returns - oil, in the words of one analyst, "like tar". The group's meteoric as-cent lifted the shares from

483p in the past year and from

103.5p over five years.
The only leading group to make progress was Enterprise
Oil, up 4.5p to 620p despite sell advise from Merrill Lynch.
The rest of the market spent another day waiting and watching New York. The unpredictable non-farm payroll figures for once had little impact but the Dow Jones Average, during London opening, had another bumpy ride as sen-timent was undermined by

earnings downgrades for blue chip IBM.



### MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN stock market reporter of the year

22 gain to 4,236.6 in rather lackinstre trading.

BG, once British Gas, was the best-performing blue chip

with a 6.5p gain to 173.5p. The shares have blazed 15p this week on reports, first in the Independent, that the Monopo-lies and Mergers Commission may back the company rather than regulator Ofgas.
The MMC is due to report

on the controversial Ofgas pricing proposals later this The gas group was also drawn into the current enphoria for utilities as the threat

draconian and is already factored into prices.

National Power gained a further 9p to 505-5p and Power Gen 7.5p to 616p. Thames Water rose 10p to 676.5p and Yorkshire Water splashed 19p

Yorkshire Water splashed 19p higher to 350p.

The Rolls-Royce engine deal with Delta Airlines and hopes it is near to selling its Parsons side lifted the shares 8p to 245p. Tomkins, the bans to gons conglomerate, added 5p to 274p as SBC Warburg sug-

gested a 316p a target.
Sears, the strugging retailer, was again briskly traded with break-up bid stories still going the rounds. The shares

The latest twists and turns in the Thomson-CSF affair low-cred General Electric Co 4p to 382.5p.

Drew Scientific had another upheat day, gaining 32.5p to 195p after touching 240p. The slowdown was prompted by cautious noises from stocks was gain brushed by the artival of the founder of Blenheim Exhibitions, Laurie

Drew Scientific had another upleat day, gaining 32.5p to 195p after touching 240p. The slowdown was prompted by cautious noises from stockbroker Wise Speke. Drew has surged from 20p this year, prompting the company to reveal it is seeking to use its technology for heart disease.

The stampede to find the next health high-filer lifted Tepnel Life 16p to 76.5p and even touched struggling Haemocell, up 0.5p to 5.75p.

NFC, the old National Freight Corporation, had a bumpy ride, falling 7.5p to 153.5p as BZW said sell incheape, the international trader, cape, the international trader, gained 10p to 262.5p as UBS

Bickerton, a builder, arrived on AIM at 42p from a 40p plac-

Blepheim Exhibitions, Lauric Lewis who has a near-30 per cent interest. The shares rose Sp to 68.5p and the warrants 2.5p to 22.5p. At the start of the year the shares were 25p and the warrants stuck at 4.5p un-

til last month. Pathfinder Pathfinder Properties turned in another robust performance, up 8p at 50p. But SR.
Gent, as some grew tired of
waiting for the long mooted
bid, fell 7p to 57.5p.
Brewer Gibbs Mew frothed

Derotherm, the electronic

**Taking Stock** 

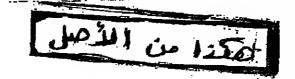
equipment group, edged ahead 9p to 480p as talk drifted around a takeover bld was being lined up. Engineer Siebe was the name in the

enanigans last summer Enrotherm shares have performed poorly, largely on worries the strong pound is hitting profits. Siebe, off 7.5p to 986.5p, had to contend with a rating downgrading to sell from NatWest Securities. Analyst John Pearson said that the group was likely to

World Fluids, soon to be called Peterbead, had a difficult session, off 7p to 62.5p. The shares, suspended while 14p higher to 250p on director buying and Flying Flowers put on 1/p to 272.5p following a returned to market on Thursday at the equivalent of 70p.

The second control of the control of Chip IBM.

After scoring a 33-points fall tax is submerged by sugadvance Footsie settled for a gestions it will not be too put on 1.5p to 75.5p. lysts have signalled a 300p tar-



**Emotional** 

springtime

for Turner

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THE INDEPENDENT • SATURDAY 5 APRIL 1997

# sport

# Haining to set the pace for Sculler's Head

Rowing HUGH MATHESON

Rugby Union

DAVID LLEWELLYN

ble of emotions.

For a clutch of young meo

around the country it is a certainty that this spring their fancy has turned rightly to thoughts of

promotion, play-offs and places in Europe. For one man in par-

ticular, Bedford's player-coach Paul Turner, there will be a jum-

This time last year the mer-

curial outside-half was helping

Sale establish themselves as one

of the top five clubs in the coun-

try; today his mind is set on en-

suring that Bedford reinforce

their claim for a place in the Courage League First Division

next season, although there is

every chance that the odd

thought may stray further north and dwell on what might have

been as Sale – Pilkington Cup fi-nalists – continue their chal-lenge for a place in Europe at struggling West Hartlepool. Turner's immediate concern

has to be now to stop a rampant

Newcastle side from leaving Goldington Road with both

points and a bundle of points.

Rob Andrew's men have

amassed 863, which has helped

them create a staggering points difference of 656. On the way

they have run in 127 tries, at-

though Bedford are no slouches with 89 touchdowns. The

Falcons begin at a disadvantage

today, they are without their cap-

tain and No 8, Dean Ryan, who

has damaged knee ligaments.

tain, his first game in charge al-

though he has led Auckland and

namic Pat Lam, whose con-frontation with his fellow

Western Samoan Junior Para-

more promises to be cataclysmic

rather than Pacific. Andrew is

wary of his opponents, who cur-

Ryan's place goes to the dy-

Ross Nesdale takes over as cap-

New Zealand Universities.

Peter Haining three times light-weight world champion will lead off the the Sculler's Head of the River Race this afterooon. Britain's 1996 Olympic single sculler may well cast his eyes back down the field to 131 and the man who beat him two years ago, Niall O Toole, the Irishman who preceded him as

dooble world champion in the lightweight single scull.

The Head follows the same

course as last week's Boat Race but in reverse; the scullers chase each other down, starting at 10second intervals from Mortlake to Putney on London's Tideway. Secood over the line after Haining will be Martin Kettle of Queen's Tower, who will go next week to Hasenwinkel, Belgium, for the men's sculling trials along with Colin

reatly hold second place in the

table and are virtually guaranteed a play-off place, but who are look-

ing for automatic promotion.

The first meeting this season resulted in a 49-12 win for New-

castle at Kingston Park but Andrew is determined that his side

will not slip up. "We have to be

careful not to waste all the good work of last week," Newcastle's

director of rugby said yesterday. "And Bedford have improved

A division above, Sale are

strengthened by the return of the

former England scrum-half Dewi

Morris, rested for the win over

Bath, and their player-coach John Mitchell, who missed the

first hour of the midweek tri-

umph. Bath, who face a trophy-

less year for the first time since

1988, have to travel to Loftus Road tomorrow where they take

on the leaders, Wasps.
The London club have pulled

out of negotiations with the France prop Christian Califano

and denied reports that they want

to sign the centre Thomas Cas-

taignède. "We have never spoken to him," Geoff Huckstep, the Wasps chief executive, said.

a top-four place includes Sara-

cens but if they are to join the

élite next season they will have

to overcome tough opposition in

the run-in, beginning with

Brive have failed to sign Mar-

tin Johnson. The French Euro-

pean Cup holders contacted the

England lock's agent but were told he was out of their price

range. Johnson is believed to be

earning £120,000 from Leicester,

£70.000 from England and

£20,000 from the Lions, and be

has kept his job as a bank offi-

cial. "When I told them, they

were a bit taken aback," John-

son's agent, Darren Grewcock.

said. They said it was more than

The cluster of clubs hungry for

since that game.'

Greenaway, starting fourth, Tony Larkman sixth and Alex Wake starting seventh.

A notable absentee is Greg-Searle, the 1992 Olympic champion in coxed pairs, who is to try his hand as a single sculler af-ter winning bronze in Atlanta in the coxless four. His coach, the New Zealander Harry Mahon, said: "Greg never considered the Sculler's Head as he wants to concentrate on the trials and then go straight into the

Contineotal regatta circuit through the summer."

Steve Redgrave, who began as a sculler, used to race the Sculler's Head each seasoo but now regrets that "there is so much pressure to get the na-tional team going early that we can't fit it in. It would suit the international team members if they moved the race a month earlier. But the entry is probably full up already and they don't need us".

Meanwhile, at Holme Pierreport, the search began yes-terday for the partners who will join Steve Redgrave in his quest for a record fifth Olympic gold medal in Sydney in 2000. After winning in Atlanta, Redgrave first said he would never row again but later changed his mind. His coxless pair with Matthew Pinsent had not been

The men's squad will race a knock-out tournament to rank the pairs of oarsmen so that Jürgen Grobler, the men's chief coach, can begin to build the bricks to identify a four to race the first part of the season: "We may run several fours, ideally, chosen so that people training beaten since early 1992 and the at different centres can get together easily. But later in the strain of maintaining the record ruled it out for the next couple season we may form an eight for

of years, instead a coxless four the World Championships by is the leading option for them. combining two of the fours."

Grobler welcomes the new

World Cap which will for the first time bring all the teams together at Munich, Paris and Lucerne: "I am glad they are try-ing to bring rowing before the wider public, but coaches... will have to fix our crews for the whole regatta where before you could make some changes on the two days to find improvement."

# Sanchez suffers another defeat

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario's run of miserable form continued yesterday when she was beaten by the 13th-seeded South African Amanda Coetzer 6-2, 5-7, 6-0 in the Family Circle Cup in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

The Spaniard, who is the seennd seed and defending champion, was hoping the start to the elay-court season would give her a oew lease oo life.

"I'm in a very though (stretch)," said Sanchez just one day after being encouraged by her victory in her first match this year on clay. Sanchez has a disappointing 8-7 match record this year and has not won a tournament since last May despite reaching numerous finals. "I think any athlete goes

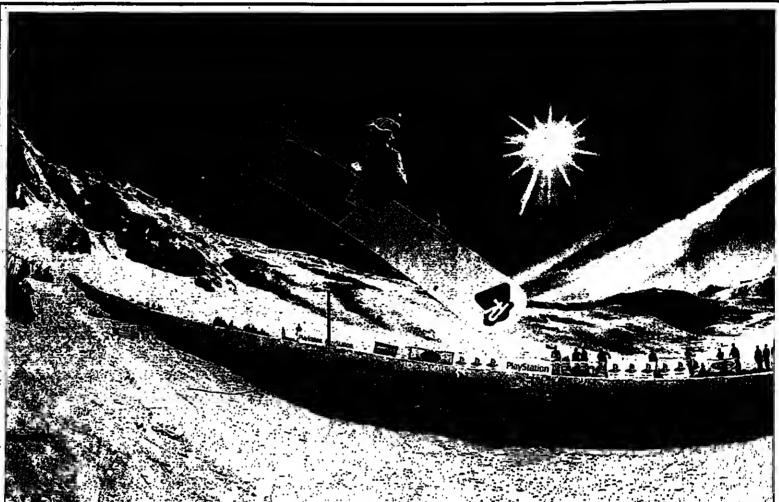
through that, some ups and downs in their life, and it's happening to me for the first time in 12 years as a profes-sional. But I just have to keep going." Sanchez said.
The tournament also lost its

third seed, Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic, a semi-finalist here last year. She was beaten by the 14th-seeded Breoda hultz-McCarthy 6-3, 6-3. While other top players strug-gled, the oew world No 1, Mar-

lina Hingis, keeps oo winning. The 16-year-old Swiss raised her 1997 match record to an unblemished 28-0 with a 6-3, 6-3 third-round victory over the Austrian Barbara Schett.

"I was hitting a big forehand today, which is not very usual for me, but I was playing very well and at a good standard for my game," said Hingis, who is aiming for her sixth title of the year.

Leg cramps forced Goran Ivanisevic to retire from his European/African zone Group One Davis Cup singles rubber yesterday, giving Austria a 1-0 lead over Croatia. Ivanisevie retired in the fifth set after three and a half hours to hand Austria's Gilbert Schaller a 6-3, 6-4, 6-7, 2-6, 3-1 victory.



# Mountain tribe will always be rebels

First, there was synchronised swimming rhythmic gymnastics and beach volleyball. Now showboarding has become an Olympic event. But not everyone in a sport dedicated to self- ... surfing and strateboarding, not

expression welcomes the change. skiing. Like surfers, many Years ago, ski resorts still snowboarders live an almost a hanned snowboarding from their slopes. In 1997 it is a sport in the ascendancy. A thousand spectators watched over 200 competitors perform various feats of gravity-defying ma-nocuvres at the recent British Snowboarding Champion-ships in Les Arcs, France.

A snowboard is essentially a giant, wheel-less skateboard. Competition events include slatom, but the essence of snowboarding can be witnessed during "halfpipe", "boardercross"

and "big air" events where Alister Morgan on competitors express themselves (and disregard personal safety) in mid-air acrobatics. The sport's roots come from

snowboarders live an almost a tribal existence, travelling from country to country and mountain to mountain. . Its peculiar fashions and

brand names have indelibly. stained the urban sub-culture of thousands of youngsters around the globe. Snowboard jackets and boots are worn by hundreds of city youths, whose experience of ice and snow usually doesn't extend past their fridge-freezers. Naturally, fashion costs. A board around £300, jacket and

the snowboarders who are suspicious of the Olympics

As the fastest growing adrepalin activity of the Ninetics, the sport commands an impressive following on and off the piste. and therefore has a formidable "global dollar" value. Snowboarding, having gained

the attention of the International Olympic Committee, will feature at next year's Nagano Winter Olympics, Japan. That will bring previously undreamed of exposure, but many in the sport re-

gret this development. "I don't think snowboarding unfashionable at Olympic level. For instance, Chris Moran, who boots £200 each, trousers £150. should be in the Olympics be-

cause it's more of a passime," says Eddie Spearing, president of the British Snowboarding Asnarrowly won the senior men's British championship, decided sociation. In my opinion, snow-boarding is only in the Olympics because the Fédération Inplaced Jomy Barr. Olympics. "Twe been boarding

ternationale du Ski want to be in control of an event that will be as big as skiing. Snowboarding will be misrepresented." Historically, the International Snowboarding Federation and the FIS have, by mutual agree-ment, had as little to do with one another as possible. But the in-

creasing popularity of snowhoarding has seen the FIS change its policy. The sport's suspicioo of the FIS may be linked to a brand of camaraderie and fair play oow

to share his title with second-Barr has no desire to go to the

long enough to know the roots of the sport, he says. To compete in the British Championships simply because I know everyone "Olympic snowboarding will be judged on two disciplines. You'll be training all the time but

snowboarding isn't about competition. It's about finding the best off-piste powdered snow and surfing your own style. It's about expression, feeling free

and riding the whole mountain." Above the ski runs, at the top of the mountains, the true spirit of snowboarding is unlikely to change despite its new status.

Welsh international Ian Hugh-

es-Rowlands with a knee injury,

while Teddingtoo will also be without a Welsh international,

Tyron Moore, who gets married

Tigers and Surbitoo are fight-

At the bottom, Barford

# **Nicol hits** his peak

Squash

Scotland's Peter Nicol reached the semi-finals of the Leekes British Open in Cardiff yesterday by beating the Australian Brett Martin.

The 23-year-old third seed, from Inverturie, near Aberdeen, won 15-10, 15-11, 13-15, 15-12, in 71 minutes and will now meet either another Australian, second seed Rodney Eyles, or Caoadian sixth seed Jonathon Power. He is the first Scottish semi-finalist in the event since Michael Oddy in 1963.

"I have peaked at the right time this year," Nicol said. "I have come to dread the British Open, having gone out in the first round for the last few years but can finally treat it like any other tournameot."

He admitted Martin had surprised him in the second game by slowing the pace to fight back from 5-12 to 11-12, then with an attack that saved three match balls at the end of the fourth. Io the women's event, the British national champion. Sue Wright, beat Linda Charman of Sussex 9-7, 9-5, 9-4 in 45 minutes to reach a semi-final against the world champion. Sarah Fitz-Gerald of Australia,

who earlier removed her compatriot and fifth seed Liz Irving 9-1, 9-3, 9-2 in just 29 minutes.

#### **QUOTES OF Riders on the Storm** THE WEEK

1 m not mad. I cannot do it. If I train every day, I will die Diego Manadona, on Bocs Li-niors' offer to take him back if he undertakes to train every

I felt like I'd been hit by a beschall bet I have a time bone of the side of my nose that sometimes comes autof place, and I have to push it back in. Colin Headry, Scotland, de-fender, on his self-perfectively surgery during the World Cup: win over Estonia

There's a fundamental daw in our game and it's called buresucracy. Lazy committee members need to get off their backsides and make a 10-year plan. I hope it reaches crisis point. Someone has to wake up at two in the morning and realise we are in the such Neville Southell, Wales and Reeper, on the state of Welsh football, effor World Cup Haffast no Belgium.

He was out of control of the was like a bear. He has ded altely hit rock bottom: All I can do is talk to him - you cannot lock a horse in a barn. Fizzy Zoeller, golfer and John Daty's friend, on the Wild Thing's latest battle with the bottle. There is life efter Williams Demon Hill, of Arrows, editor to firshed chead of Williams \$ Heinz-Haraid Frentzen in the Brazillan Grand Prix.

This is a nighty sought-atter location. We don't want' someone rolling up and making it look like some kind of Bypsy encampment. Neigh-bour of Frode Grodes, after the Cheisea goalkeeper was 49 fused permission by his localresidents' association to put up

a satellite dish.

RICHARD TAYLOR

Leicester City Riders have given their coach, Bob Donewald, a new two-year contract until the end of the 1998-9 Budweiser League season and need him to repay that faith on this final weekeod of the League cam-paign by taking the club into the playoff quarter finals.

Riders, currently joint eighth with Derby Storm with a game in hand, must finish two points clear of their East Midlands rivals. If the Storm lose at home to Sheffield Sharks tonight, Riders must either beat Birmingham Bullets this evening or win at Sheffield tomorrow. If

PA LIMBRO TYPOTY Sensit sets were the person and Rectivities of Goucasier City' Woling v Stevernege.

ICS LEAGUE Premiser Divisions Aylesbury v Purfiest: Borghern Wood v Erdield: Bromley v Beybridge: Cascinstein v Hendorr, Grays v Dafelor, 
Hemow Bortough v St Albane, Mitchin v Yeadung 
Krigsonian v Ontrol City, Stevens v Subiol Italyresond v Beshoo's Stortfoot, First Division: Bosingsole Town v Bilsetsy Town; Bedfarmisel Covivisiation & Hendharry Carrowy island v Whytelanile; 
Coydon v Abrugtion Town; Masterhead United v 
Habridge Maction v Barrow Bedfarmisel Covited and Coving & Mitchian Linted v Algentor Royal Town; 
Towns & Mitchian Linted v Algentor Royal Town; 
Town Linted In Hender & Hender & Hender 
Town; Berking v Hernal Hentpesseet; Bedford Town 
V Hosphant: Brechmel Town V Were; Craffort St 
Parter v Wittem Town; Colliar Roy & Romford v 
Liegison Town; Derking v Tibury, Masterpolitan Pofice v Hungelord Town; Wennibey v Egistem Town; 
Wender & Eron v Lagmanhead; Wenniber Variance; 
Town; Carlott Obelson; Assessy Perhame; Bast 
Town; Town; Linted V North v Cambridge Heart v 
Trong Town; Trend Obelson; Assessy Perhame; Bast 
Towns; Hernor Town; Colliar Roy & Franchie v 
Trong Town; Carlott v Cambridge Heart vo 
Trong Town; Carlott v Cambridge Heart vo 
Trong Town; Linted Town; Linter v Cambridge V 
Berlin Town; Linter of 
Went v Cambridge V 
Berel L 
LIBEROND LEAGUE. Premiser Division: Accing-

Epsom & Briel.

IRREGRO LEAGUE, Premier Divisions Accompton Sarriey & Butter, Bardery Cobyn Boy, Boston Utol v Manner, Embley v Beyn Spertner, Flockey Beynter Packer, Germontuck v Minsterd Luck Hyde Utol v Spennymoor, Knowley Guneley, Lancader V Bernowski, Jun 1987.

TODAY

Derby beat Sheffield tonight. Donewald's team must win both of their games against clubs who, until last weekend, were challenging for the title.

The top four will have home advantage in the three-game quarter finals, from which four qualify for the finals at Wembley on 3 and 4 May. Birmingham and London Towers are pitching for second place ahead of Sheffield and Chester Jets, while Manchester Giants' 78-60 midweek win over Sheffield guaranteed them sixth place head of Newcastle. The champioos Loodon Leopards finished their League

programme on Thursday, beating Hemel Royals 109-94.

# Clinton praises Bulls

The United States President, said. "Twe never had the oppor-Bill Clinton, had high-flown words of praise for the Chicago Bulls when they visited the White House oo Thursday. He called the Bulls as "perhaps the greatest basketball dynasty ever," saying that they had taught Americans a lot about winning with grace in taking four of the last six NBA cham-

The team's star players, Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman, and coach Phil Jackson appeared proud to stand beside President Clinton in a long-delayed visit to celebrate their 1996 NBA championship.

"I'm very nervous," Jordan

tunity to stand next to such a prestigious man. Reports from Chicago had

said some of the players were oot eothusiastic about the visit. Rodman kept a low profile as low a profile as he could keep in tight black leather pants, dark sunglasses and a black-and-gold plaid lame shirt that matched his gold hair. He staked out a spot oo the back row as the team posed for an official photograph with

The Bulls last visited the White House in 1992, when President Bush was in office. Jordan skipped that visit but seemed to enjoy himself.

#### Reading seeing double Hockey fortunately we have no injuries. This is the big one." Cannock will be missing

BILL COLWILL

the silver medal in the European Cup-Winners' Cup last weekend are still in line for a domestic league and Cup douhle. Tomorrow they meet last year's League champions, Cannock, at Sonning Lane in their last league game, knowing they must win to be assured of the title. Should they lose or draw and second-placed Teddington beat Canterbury then the title will go to the Middlesex club. Their coach, Jon Copp, said:

Reading, who did so well to take

"The lads are still a bit tired after four games in four days but

ing to avoid relegation although it is possible, but extremely un-likely, that Hounslow could still

this afternoon.

go down. The Londoners will be without the Loughborough Students Lawrence Hannah and Simon Archer for their visit to Surbiton. A win for Surbiton will assure them of their Premier

# WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

Rugby League STONES SUPER LEAGUE Parts v St. Holons (7.0), YOUTH INTERSULTIONAL: Prance Youth v BUR-LA Greet British (Charley Std. Paris, 5.0),

Rugby Union SRU TEMBRIS 1556 BOWL Second round:

Localber V Bigger.
COURAGE CLUES: CHAMPIONSHIP National
Laughe Does Bristol v Northempton; Gloucoster
v Suscens; Lecester v Orne; Locotion Insh v Hescures; Vest Harbegooi v Soig; National League
Theo: Badford v Newsette (2.15); Coventry v

South Water Police (2.30). NESTRANCE CORPORATION LEAGUE First Di-vision: Bellyment v Old Balendere (2.30); Cork Consolution v Ourgamon (2.30); Earryween v Gul Westry (2.30); Instantant v Young Munster (2.30); Laradwine v Balendeck Coffegs (2.30); Sharmon v Old Cressors (2.30); Si May's Col-leg v Tereium (col (2.30); Second Bildeloni Bo-ter Familias v Comert (2.30); Sharmonon v Man-ter Calott, NRCV OLSP (2.30); Stemas William (2.30); NRCV OLSP (2.30); Stemas w William ore (2.30); DCC v Sundey's Well (2.30).

Hockey

jans v Hightown (1.30). First Division: Brack-nell v Centerbury (2.0); Chelmsbord Broadbak v Bruelharts (1.1.15); Sanderland Bedans v Brad-bord Switherbark (12.20); Wimbiation v Otton (12.0). Second Division: Exmouth v Shanwood (1.3.20). Put Interbenesia Landbard and State (1.30); Old Loughtonians v Loughborough Stu-dents (1.0); St Albens v Esting (1.30); West Wit-

ROYAL AL-FASSEL WOMEN'S MIDILAND Pre-oline: Comson Remblers v Kotering: Hampton-In-Ironn v Adridge; Piclovick v North Staffs; West Promised v Battern Landstor. WOMEN'S SOUTH First Divisions City of Portsmouth v Hampsteed & Westminster, Read-ing v Howhert; Southernpton v Windhester; Windh-more Hill v Dubindt; Worthing v Tulea Hill. WOMEN'S EAST Promiers Bedeyhearth v Wei-wyn Barden City: Sury St Edmunds v Sevenools: Clambridge City v Ashibrid: Horlecton Magnes v lopwich.

WOMEN'S NORTH First Division: Stackburn v Welter: Liverpool v Carlele: Poynton v Stackburn v York v Chester.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby Storm v Sheffield Sherhs (7-30); Leidester Ridess v Brimnignam Bullets (7-30); Hernel & Wacford Royals v Man-chester Gents (7-30); Worthing Bears v Chester Jets (8.0). NBL First Division: Bury & Botton v Plyroputh (7.30); Cardiff v Liverpool: Coventry v Noting-turn (7.30); Solent v Oxford (8.0); Ware v Stock-ton (8.0): Westminster v Guildford (6.0).

Speedway WONETHERTOON. BRITISH UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-

PREMIER LEAGUE MOCK OUT CUP: Stake v

Other sports
BOWLS: British Mans Championship (Mehan Mowstry). GOLF: Scottish Chemoion of Chemology (Lev-(OOKER: Bresh Open (Plymouth).

TEMES: Davis Cup Euro-Africa Zone Group One., second round: Great Britain v Zimbabwe (Crys-tal Palace, 1.45). VOLLEYBALL: Netional Cup finals (Pond's TOMORROW Football

reuros amiesto y Firm Happ (2.0).
POOTEAU, ASSOCIATION Women's PREMIER
1ERGUE Retional Division: Croydon Ladies v
Amerial Ladies (Croydon Sporis Agres, 2.0); Beston Town Ladies v Trammer Rovers Ladies (New
Manor Ground, 2.0); Liverpool FC Ladies v
Oncaster Belles (Wirdly Sporis Stadum, 12.0); Miswall Lionesses v Southempton Spirits (Fisher FC,
2.0)

Rugby League

STORES SUPER LEAGUE: Bradierd v London
(6.0); Harrise v Salterd (3.0); Sheffield v Castletord (8.35); Warriston v Ordham (3.0). Sheftield v Castletord (8.35); Warriston v Dorkam (3.0); Sheffield v Maketleid (3.15); Reighey v Whitehaven
(3.0); Warrise v Hall RG 30); Workington v Dowebury (3.0). Second Division: Bettey v Barrow
(3.15); Cartale v Harrist (3.0); Dorchdar v Loncashire Lyny (3.0); Prescot v Leigh (3.0);
Rochdale v Brantey (3.0).

Rugby Union (3.0 unless stated) COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIO

League One: Weeps v Bath (at Lottus Road) SRU TERRENTS 1556 CUP Fifth rounds Bor-oughnum's Steing County; Dundse HSFP v Han-

SRIJ TENNENTS 1558 BOWS. Second round: Cartra O Pv Hamasofordaminit Dura v Lnishgov; East Kilbride v Sellaric, Grangamouth v Dun-ferminne Langision v Preson Louge; Morgan Acad FP v Trintry Acads; Ross High v Strathendrick. SRU TENNENCS 1556 SHIELD Flost round: Abarts Mei FP; Hawek Trades v Currie; Jed-Forest v Ayr; Musethurgh v Edmburgh Acade; St Boswells

Hockey

Hockey

NATIONAL LEASURE Premier: Barlord Yigors v
East Grasshad (2.30); Guildford v Havent
(12.0); Old Loughtonians v Southgate (1.30);
Recking v Carnock (2.0); Subston v Hounslow
(2.30); Eddington v Carabebury (2.0). Float Divisions Beesson v Blueharts (2.0); Hull v Warnagon (2.0); Indean Granishans v Bounniells
(2.30); Isca v Browley (1.30); Lawes v Brookleants (1.30); Oxford Hawks v Cay of Portsmeuth
(12.30); Oxford Line v Crostyx (1.0); Sheffield
v Dortcaster (2.0); St Alborav Printbrands (2.0);
Stourport v Gloucester Cby (2.30); Tropians
v Harleston Megnes (1.30).

NEMMA CLIP Quartar-Binale: Cition v Carabebury
(1.0); Doncaster v Sutton Coldfield (1.0); Hejimen v Akindge (12.30); Slough v Josech (2.0).

BUDWESER LEARUE: Sheffield Sherita v Livester Riders (6.30); Berninghern Bulleta v Worthing Bears (6.30); London Towers v New-castie Eagles (6.30); Trames Valley Tigers v Heme! & Watford Royals (6.0). NEEL Flort Davision: Broom v Wid Susser (4.0); Coventry v Cardiff (3.0); Guildford v Bury & Botom (4.0); Nottingham v Solent (4.0); West-

Speederzy STAR CUP: Eastourne v Kingtle Lynn (2.30), PREMIER LEAGUE KNOCK OUT CUP: Glasgow v Hull (6.30); Newcastle v Sheffield (6.30);

BOWLS: British Men's Championship (Melton

GOLD: Scottish Champion of Champions (Leven Liney. MOTOR RACPIE: British Formula Three Cham-ponchip (Salerstone). SQUASN: British Open (Cardiff).

VOLLEYBALL: National Cup finals (Pond's Forge, Shelfield).

Bartiber Bridge: Gainstoraugh v Wintpool user vyour July Sponsymboor, Knowskip v Gameley, Lancaster v Runscare; Larek Isom v Beholder Beating of Wittom Albert v Christy. First Division: Beating of Av Winthmagen: Congletten Yown v Astron Listed; Custon Address v Windsop Town; Estation of Isom v Christy Largh v Rapor; Mariotic Now v Garens, Netpartical v Herogete Town; Stockstradge P S v Farelay Cetter Winter (Rey Stockstradge C S Cetter (Rey S Lancaster) Company Cetter (Rey S Lancaster) Cetter (Rey I don't want to be anyone assistant but I'd go to Manichester United as the kit manager. Sammy McBroy, Macdesfield manager and for mer United player, on his cateer ambitions.

Granthern Town v Handday Town; Medition Town v Bedworth Utd; Raunda Town v R C Warwick; Reddisch Utd v Moor Groen; Shepshad Oymano v Pager Rangen; Soffwall Boo v Duday Town; Stafford Rangens v Tamanatic Satton Codfield Town v Stautotidgs: VS Raughy v Rottowal Town; Backings vor Town; Portice Groen; Person Town; Care Comp. Portice Groen; Person Town; Groen v Revoluti Glovi; Margate v Floot Town; Forchtige Anglie v Witney Town; Towahidge Town v Cinderford Town; Waston-augus-Mase v Statemans, Wagnatin V Waterbooking; Year Town Football (3.0 unites stated) (3.0 proces season)

Can MARIONAL CORPERENCE: Bramagiose v Hednesford; Dover v Morocomber Geneshoed v Famborough; Hayes v Northatch: Macclesfeld v Attractore; Rushden & Dambords v Southport: Slough v Hallac Stablonds v Bath.

VA Usaneno TROPPY Semi-dined first legt Dagerham and Reducing v Gloucasier Chy, Wolling v Stavenage.

Miss Western Western Super-Mans Miss Westernouth V Westernoutle; Your Your Arthete London. SMERITORY EXIST LEAGUE Premier Division: Minerale v Limbelt, Colorane v Portadown; Ge-Cificancie v Limbett Colesians v Portacione, de-neson v Artis, Glanicare v Chusaders, Riest Dev-elon: Bellyders v Newey, Bangor v Destlery, Lama v Ballymans Crings i Youn v Carrist. LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor Copy Holywelt, Ban-ty Town v Newtown; Briton Party v Abergraydt, Caernard Town v Intro Party v Abergraydt Caernard Town v Cornell's Quey, Carross Bay v Yon Pentre, Carristan v Riyt, Flyt, Town v Unrasedfeed, Porthrading v Caernard, Weistrood v Ebbar Vale (2.30).

Lineardied: Pophradog v Caerant, vestipou v Ebev Veta (2.30).

- Wastoni EAD RENT - EAGUE First Division: Cartigiony Cay Lendowood: Cranter Tour v Stedies Green; Cray Vestigened Tour; Greenwith Borough v Foliatione Instat, Herme Bay v Shephy Urbad, hythe United v Dool Tour; Turbadge Walls v Furnas; Whotable Tour v Contribur; Wooken't Tour v Bedgerham Tour.

- United Subsect Collety Lendie First Division Fount v Southwist; Horston v Portificit; Eastbourna Touri v Southwist; Horston v Walls v Oslandor, Paginar v Pagors v Sossoy, Male Gal v Oslandor, Paginar v Pagors v Sossoy, Male Gal v Oslandor, Paginar v Pagors v Sossoy, Male Gal v Oslandor, Paginar v Pagors v Southwist (2004).

- Divisions Bourna v Potton; Coggania o V Boston; Desborugh v Eyeston; Holbach v Long Buthly Malegar v Southwist (2004) v St Moster Visinghoungh v Spreadury; Holbach v Long Buthly Malegar v Southwist (2004) v St Moster Visinghoungh v Spreadury; Holbach v Long Buthly Malegarough v Sandrof.

- Southwist (2004) v Notton; Cody v St Moster Visinghoungh v Sandrof.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier United to Arrivot Devidence Arrivotope Welling will be tower. Arrivot Tower, Arrivot Tower, Arrivot Tower, League Tower, Harrised Wasn w Selby Tower Learnedge will be tower to Arrivotat Tower Western (North Tower) Leafung Tower Committee of the Committee of Descri, Town v Astrabid Linhard.

NORTH WEST COURTIES LEAGHE First Divisions Buscough valided, Courties Leagher First Divisions Buscough valided Cod Boye; Notagone Arthers v Holler Old Boye; Notagone Arthers v Sensor Heigh, Research v Bedood Power. Pennin v Heigh, Marie v Bedood Power First School City v American Colleges.

AMBERIA, SOUTH MEDIANDS Premier Division: Buggessed Town v Cares Bar Forer Bache Spans v Lampford: Hoddesdon Town v Arlessy. Listhworth v Bedood Unit, Landon Collegy v Budangham Afte Million Keynes v Heightham Towns Toddingson Rovers v Welling Carden City.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE First Divisions ACC.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE First Divisions AFC Whitchurch Christharth v Arostuchurus Coves Sports v Bouremouth Essisien v Niccienhust Porsnouth RN v Perestielt, Thatchart v East Cover, Windome v Romey. JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Prestier Division: Buy Town v Loweson Town; Felstowe PAT v Web-bech Town; Greet Yamputh Town v Metch Town Ust: Sohem Town Resigns v Woodbridge Town; Types Unit v Dust Town; Wardoys Town v Herwich & Perieston; Wromen v Stewmarket, Town; INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDUAND ALLIANCE: Balarnet v Passiner Town; Dodgroff Allian Ce.

ec; weekned fown viestel with FERSUE FENDENTING BREWERT NORTHERN LEAGUE First Divisions Bedington Temes v Basington, Cester La Steet v Chock Const. Caster La Steet v Chock Const. White Court Const. V Northern Federation v RTM NewCastle: Castorragh v Stettor; Museum v South Shield Auchten Castorragh v Stettor; Museum v South Shield Auchten Castorragh v White Market Museum Castorragh v White Burner Castorra

Routes Mack reasons value, national similar force: Badderd v Newbastie (2.15); Coverny v Rotherteris Massley v London Scottsch; Notting-hors v Meration; Ristand v Blaschent; Walscheid v Ragby, National Lengue Three Extery Pytics Harrogers v Cottor Leader v Morley; London Weigh v Redunt; Lightey v Weisser, Residing v Oley; Rosely Park v Liverpool St. Melans; Witerfedies v Hovent, National Lengue Pour North Asparts v Massche ver; Herstord v Morce-ter; Nanoston v Stouthridge, Prestor Grasshopes v Lichfield; Sandal v Bernington Sosthut; Sheffield v Solet-on-Toney, Martington Park v Kondat; National Lengue Pour Sontite Askans v Carlot Park, Carlothery v Princet, Potentian v Bern; Hit; Herstey v Met Pouse; North Walsham v Kigh Wycombe, Zobard v Newbury; Weston-Super-Mark v Newholes (2.30); Lendi v Ounvert (2.30); Respond to Prision; Caspilly v Newholes (2.30); Portyprind v Terootty (2.30); Seamsed v Elber Vale (2.30); Seamsed v Bebw Vale (2.30); Second Division; Alexandri v Mayer (2.30); Seamsed v Elber Vale (2.30); Seamsed v Bebw Vale (2.30); Second Division; Alexandri v Mayer (2.30); Seamsed v Bebw Vale (2.30); Second Division; Alexandri v Mayer (2.30); Seamsed v Bebw Vale (2.30); Second Division; Seamsed v Bebw Vale (2.30); Second Division; Seamsed v Bebw Vale (2.30); Seamsed v Bebw Vale (2.30).

PESIRBANCE ORRORATION LEAGUE First Division; Seamsed v Bebware v Bit Reseaton v 28th Control (2.80); Second Division; Seamsed v Bebware v Bit Reseaton v 28th Control (2.80); Seamsed v 28th Control (2.80);

legic v Dumen (20) Whitey (even v Whistern. ESSEX SEROR LEAGUE Premier Division Burn-nem Rechibles v Great Wellering Povers; Elect Ham United v Brestwood; Hullandige Sports v Ford Unit-ed; Soften Walten Town v Blood; Southend Wenor v Stansied. FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE National Division: Sector Ladies v Went-bley Ledge (Goodson Perk, 12.0).



COCA-COLA CUP FINAL: Leicester City v Middlesbroog Corner Color



# Leicester rely on heart to counter international art

Football Correspondent

in the red corner the stars, in the blue, the chorus line. Tomorrow's Coca-Cola Cup final between Middlesbrough and Leicester City is not as one-dimensional as that but there is truth in the stereotypes. Middlesbrough have the famous names. Leicester the work ethic to match Wimbledon. It is an unexpected final. Grayson to follow him and his

Both sides have been more preoccupied with the battle against relegation than the chase for honours. Unlike Middlesbrough. Leicester are almost secure, though Boro look as if they

may now pull themselves clear. Their recent run of form has confirmed them as favourites and increased the likelihood of played only five Premiership a decent match. It could be tight matches, this season he was sent a decent match. It could be tight but the contrast in styles should make for interesting, if not necessarily thrilling watching. The match may turn on bow Leices-ter deal with Juninho. He toyed with them in the first half of their recent League clash, scoring and creating a goal for Mikkel Beck as Boro went 3-0 up. Then Leicester detailed Simon

man-mark tomorrow? To do so would risk disrupting the shape of their own side. While the spotlight will be on Juninho and Fabrizio Ravanelli, the human stories lie elsewhere. Last year Clayton Blackmore

on loan to Bristol City. Then Boro's injury crisis gave him a chance which be has seized so well he his international

man tales are influence diminished. Will City tinged with sad-Garry Parker may not even play - his eight-week-old daughter, born five months pre-A mobile phone sits in the

mature, is on a life support ma-chine and he could withdraw as orates. Yet his form in the relate as an hour before tick-off. cent cup matches has been

sweet. His mother Carol suffers from multiple sclerosis and she, and the family, have had to make great efforts to be at Wemblev tomorrow.

More cheering are the stories of Neil Lennon. Jamie Lawrence and Steve Clarrecent book, is

built a career in the game after serving four years for armed nxibery - nor has he forgotten, among his guests tomorrow are some of his former prison warders. Lennon has recovered from an operation on his spine that forced him to wear a plas-ter corset for three months to protect 16 metal staples which held together a foot-long inci-

sion in his back. From such backgrounds come the character which has made Leicester so hard to beat - two goals conceded in 11 hours of Coca-Cola Cup football, Now they hope to become the first Leicester team to win a Wembley final - their previous League Cup success was in the days of

two-legged finals. Martin O'Neill is likely to play Grayson, rather than Lawrence, at right wing back to counter Juninho with Pontus Kamark preferred to Mike Whitlow on the left if fit.

Middlesbrough have only been to Wembley once, losing a Zenith Data Systems final in 1990. Their injury doubt is Robbie Mustoe. If he fails a test on his thigh Neil Cox is expected to come in at full-back with Black-

more switching to midfield.

Boro's quality and form should win them the first major trophy in their 121-year history, but only if they can match Leicester's heart. It not Leicester have, in Emile Heskey, their own matchwinner.

# Perfect stage for Juninho's genius

Glenn Moore believes Leicester must stop the brilliant Brazilian to achieve Wemblev success

at a bus stop or in a café, you would not think bun remarkable. There is nothing one might envy. Then put this waif on a football pitch and watch, it is quickly evident that be possesses gifts which most can only dream of.

Wembley tomorrow, with its legendary open spaces, should be the perfect stage for the talents of Juninho, Middlesbrough's elfin Brazilian. It is just three weeks since be destroyed Leicester City in a Premiership match and there is every danger that he will do so again in the Coca-Cola Cup final. Stopping Juninho is the key to a Leicester success.

Martin O'Neill, City's manager, has not been the only person focusing on him. The covetous eyes of several Euro-

preparing a £7m bid. Should Juninho continue his magnificent recent form in front foreign imports, he has adapted of tomorrow's worldwide television audience he

may do more than propel Middlesbrough into Eu- of the best of all the foreign im- form. Against us be got away rope for the first time. He could secure a lucrative overseas deal for himself as well.

This would be a loss to the English game as well as Mid-dlesbrough, and not just because Juninho is a delight to watch. His arrival at a cost of £4.75m. from São Paulo in November 1995, was a significant step in the revival of the English game. He was the first real talent to bave chosen the Premiership in preference to Serie A. Previous imports, like Dennis Bergkamp. Jurgen Klinsmann and Ruud Gullit, had either failed there, or passed their prime.

Since Juninho arrived Emerson, Gianfranco Zola and Roberto Di Matteo have followed while Alan Sbearer has chosen to stay. To leave Middlesbrough, especially for an underachieving club like Valencia, would suggest Juninho saw

see him out of context. England as a finishing school, Middlesbrough, then newly pronot a destination.

In fact Juninho is more like-- and there is a second chance consider his position, success to stay.

For one of the most attractive aspects of the 24-year-old employers. Unlike Emerson there was never any doubt that be would be back on time from his midweek trip to Brazil for international duty

Brian Marwood, the former England international, now involved in work for the media and the Professional Foothallers' Association, said: "Middleshrough's problems with Ra-vanelli and Emerson have been pean clubs are being cast his well documented hut Juninho

with very few complaints'

The Middleshrough staff

say he is an absolute dream to

work with. He is fantastic tecbnically but his attitude and commitment in adapting to

England has been first class.

Frank Clark, whose Man-

chester City team were knocked

out of the FA Cup by Middles-brough, added: "There is none

of the 'big star' about him.

When I have seen him, on and

one of the lads and very re-

This, and the support of his

family, several of wbom have

moved to Teeside, helped him

overcome early problems. Jun-

inho arrived to a rapturous re-

spectful to other people.

few complaints.

moted, were sixth. With the onset of winter they went into ly to leave Boro if they lose. free-fall losing eight League While failure to get into Europe games on the spin and going 14 without a win. Juninho struggled in the FA Cup - may make him to integrate himself into a team which had suddenly been found would simply confirm his desire out by the extra quality of the Premiership. Two late wins ensured sur-

vival, but their mid-table reis his clear commitment to his spectability masked serious problems, notably in defence. The signings of Ravanelli and Emerson failed to address these and the club slipped to bottom this season.

Then Gianluca Festa and Mark Schwarzer arrived and Nigel Pearson recovered from injury. Suddenly Middlesbrough were gaining enough of the ball to allow Juminho to play. He had done well sporadically but, for the last month, he has been outway, with Valencia said to be has just got on with life. He is one standing, lifting Boro out of

the bottom three

He is one of the best of all the "He'll he a problem," Clark said. "He is a world-class player at the top of his

ports, he has adapted with very just once and that was it. He is a wonderful player with a wonderful attitude. He is probably most dangerous when he is running at people with the ball, once he is in his stride be is very difficult to shake off."

Technically be is like Zola, Marwood said. "Both feet are so quick. His control and touch gives him more space than other players. He is well balanced, he glides over surfaces, his awareness is very good and he off the pitch, it bas come over links well with other players. If what a great bloke he is. He is you give him room he runs amok so people bave been going man-to-man on him. Derby did that in the second half of their FA Cup tie but, though he was a lot quieter, he still made

the second goal." This is partly because of his ception but it was not long before the club's form began to followed him all over the pitch slide. After a successful debut, at Wimbledon but, in the clos-



ing stages, Juninho escaped to

create the equaliser. "Bryan Robson has said be is much stronger." Marwood added. "The physical requirements of the game are greatest in this country and he has adapted. When be first came bere be was skilful but light-weight. Now he is capable of riding tackles. One thing which has impressed other players is that be is not quick to go to ground. He tries to keep his feet."

On the move Juninho looks

FA Carling Premiership

3.0 unless stated

like a clusive child swerving minded him of the Laudrup around adult baddies in some pre-teen Hollywood movie. He is so small it seems he would be lost in the professional game but he survived more than 100 matches in the brutal world of Brazilian football and has so far played 62 here without major injury. Schwarzer, Middlesbrough's Australian goalkeeper, marvelled: "I can't believe how strong he is on the ball. He's also deceptively quick." Team-mate

Mikkel Beck said Juninho re-

brothers, Brian and Michael, who he has played with for Den-

"He's always had that creativity, that ability to go at defenders and then play people in, but he's added goals as well," Robbie Mustoe added. "Now be's really settled he's been just superb." This season Juninho has scored 13 goals in 36 games which, given the amount he creates, and Middlesbrough's poor. form, is an impressive return.

One impressed peer is Alan Shearer who admitted; "I'll be voting for bim as my North-East player of the year, even ineluding my team-mates at Newcastle. He has done extremely well. His skill is unbe-

So bow do Leicester stop him? Clark feels "sure Martin O'Neill has something planned" but Marwood cautioned "it can be very difficult to mark someone who is floating in a free role.

It is a very disciplined task. If

you go man-to-man you have to reshape your side which can be disruptive.

Juninho should prosper in Wembley's broad acres but, Clark adds, "that's the theory but quite often in a cup final the player who shines is not a top player. There are 22 players with some very good ones on both sides. He is possibly the outstanding player on paper but it doesn't always work out like that." Few, however, will be betting against him:

# Hateley's Ibrox return

Scottish football

Mark Hateley could make his return to Ibrox for Rangers against Dunfermline today after completing his suspension, imposed after he was sent off against Celtic last month. Smith's side are seven points clear of their Glasgow rivals in

the title race with just five games left as they try to win their ninth title in a row. Rangers have lost their last two home games, to Dundee United and Kilmarnock, and have a number of injury prob-

lems. Midfielders Ian Ferguson

and Charlie Miller are both sus-

pended but Hateley, back for a second spell at the club follow-

Stevenage Borough, the reigning Vauxhall Conference cham-

pions, have been fined £25,000

by the Foothall Association after asking for a £30,000

The Stevenage chairman,

Victor Green, was found guilty

of telling Torquay that unless the money was paid he would sell

his cluh's leading striker. That could have cost the Hertford-

shire club - whose ground did

"bung" from Torquay.

missal at Celtic Park. Hateley is sure to be given a

huge welcome by the Ibrox fans after scoring more than 100 goals in bis first spell. Erik Bo Andersen could also come into contention, but the match is too early for Paul Gascoigne to re-While Rangers stay in Glas-

gow, Tommy Johnson is expected to make his Celtic debut against Raith at Stark's Park. Johnson will wear the hoops for the first time at Kirkcaldy after his £2.4m transfer from Aston

The 26-year-old Geordie cannot wait for his first taste of Scottish football and could be knee surgery.

FA fine Stevenage £25,000

dards by the required deadline - the Conference title.

Had Stevenage been over-

hauled their by nearest chal-

lengers, Woking, whose ground

did meet the criteria, then

Torquay, who finished bottom

of the Third Division, would

Green yesterday suffered for

his actions as Stevenage were

fined, although it is suspended

for two years and the club will

not meet Football League stan- only have to pay if they again ation the regret expressed."

have been relegated.

ing a move from Queen's Park joined in the Celtic line-up by Rangers, can return after his dis- the Italian Paolo Di Canio who is available again after a However, Peter Grant and

Malky Mackay are both serving

suspensions which will mean that they will miss the Tennents Scottish Cup semi-final with Falkirk. Kilmarnock aim to maintain their impressive recent form against Hearts at Rugby Park af-

ter victories over Celtic and Rangers in recent weeks. Hearts will be without John Robertson. The 32-year-old striker, who is one goal short of equalling Jimmy Wardhaugh's club Scottish League goal-scoring record, is out after having

breach FA rules in the next 24

to pay within 14 days a £10,000

contribution to the costs of the

bearing, which was beard by a

FA spokesman Steve Double

said: "The committee decided

that the club officials had been

misguided in their behaviour (which) could not go unpunished

although it took into consider-

three-man FA committee.

The club were also ordered

months.

WEEKEND POOLS CHECK

1 Aston Villa v Everton .... 2 Manchester Utd v Derby Notim Forest v Southerno

First Division

5 Samsley v Birmingham

6 Botton v QPR

7 Charlton v Manchester City Crystal Palsos v Hudder I Ipawich v Oldham ...... LO Oxford v Port Vale ..... 12 Sheffield Utd v WBA L3 Stoke City v Reading L4 Swindon v Southend

Second Division
16 Brandord v Strevbury
17 Brandord v Strevbury
18 Baunley v Millandi
19 Cresterfield v Gillingham
20 Petarborough v Soument
21 Presson v Plymouth
22 Rotherbury Luton 23 Watford v Crewe Ale 26 York v Notts County.

Third Division 27 Barnet v Hull ... 31 Dartegton v Doncaste 32 Euster v Torquey 23 Hardepool v Leyton O 34 Hereford v Colchester

Bell's Scottish League 39 Aberdeen v Motherwelf . 40 Hiberrian v Dundee Utd. 41 Kilmernock v Hearts **First Division** 

38 Sounthorpe v Brighton

44 Andre v Cydebers 47 Morton v St. Johnstone 48 Starling Alb v St July 30 Second Division 49 Brechin v Queen of the South

· Linkneston v Ayr United

Third Division - Albion Rovers v Ross Count - East Stirling v Counterbesti - Fortar Athletic v Allor Inverness CT v Montrose Queen's Park v Arbro

TOMORROW Coca-Cola Cup final

FA Carling Promiership Liverpool v Covernry (3.0)

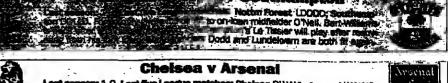


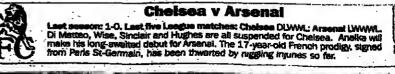














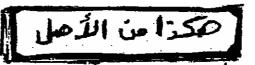




المكذا من الأصل

**blton** c

IOC asked ! take action



# Joe Royle was a very nice man, an Everton hero but out of his depth

Evertooians are a peculiar bunch. We moan ceaselessly about the lacklustre performances of our beloved Blues, wistfully recalling the all-too brief glory days of the 1960s and 1980s. Joe Royle, Colin Harvey, Howard Kendall, Peter Reid, Andy Gray, Kevin Ratcliffe. Great players. True disciples of the School of Science. And we always believe that better days

are just around the next corner. Yet, if the truth be told, over to Joe Royle. the past 30 years or so we have had precious few teams of any worth or quality. The 1969-70 championship winning side was among the finest in history, but

within 12 months of setting the 1994, with the team languishing til 1984 to see another great team in blue. And by 1987 that little epoch was over, since when... giant chib acting like minnows, forever refusing to face facts, believing the new messiah was just about to arrive at Lime Street Station. Which brings me

Genial Joe arrived at Goodison on a wave of expectation. This was his dream appointment, the job he was born to take and

League alight that team was in at the foot of the Premiership, disarray, and we had to wait unahead: save us from the dreaded drop. That he did so was achievement enough. But he well, we've been struggling on a went one step further - one step generally downward curve. A too far as it turned out - and won us the FA Cup, Caught in a web of euphoria, we convinced ourselves that the glory days had returned, never to leave again. But the truth was more prosaic and altogether less palatable.

We were still overnm by mediocrity, both on the pitch and behind the scenes. Chairman Peter Johnson talked a good game so, indeed, did Royle - but that



wasn't enough. One cup could not brush aside years of waste and short-sightedness. We were nowhere near ready to take on the clite. Yet, the club kept insisting that they were so close to re-establishing a football nirvana. Andrei Kanchelskis and Nick Barmby arrived. There was much talk of a new 65,000-capacity super stadium.

But again we have shown a remarkable capacity for shooting ourselves in the foot. Transfers have publicly gone awry -most notably the Nigel Martyn fiasco, and the mexplicable arrival recently of the Dane Claus Thomsen - and the team have been performing with a lack of focus for most of the

for the championship - was rapidly forgotten And slowly the screws named on Royle. He was either incapable of seeing the problems in the team (lack of a genuine goalscorer and a midfield playmaker, a defence with a soft centre) or of dealing with them. And as our star oames such as Kanchelskis, Barmby and Duncan Ferguson failed to inspire, Royle became increasingly desperate.

Our manager was doing a assable imitation of someone suffocated by the increasing pressure. Slowly, it dawned on er again. Should we believe

A promising start - talk of Everton being the dark horses man, an Everton hero but way out of his depth. He joined Harvey and Kendall as great Evertonians eventually destroyed by the magnitude of trying to manage this club. He had to go for all our sakes, including his own! His departure as such wasn't a surprise, merely the

So now we look forward to the future. Johnson promises a world-class manager (please, no more ex-Evertonians!) and a summer full of exciting arrivals. He is determined to make Everton a genuine pow-

has sensibly preached evolution. Now, though, it's time for a revolution, both on the pitch and behind the scenes.

sport

What Everton need right now is a visionary with the sure, confident touch of the late Sir John Moores, the chairman who dragged the club into the modern era during the early 1960s. Is Johnson that man?How he handles the current situation will shape this club for generations to come. And you know what? I'm convinced Peter Johnsoo will make us great again. But then, as I said, Ever-

# Title race heads . for final furlong

Championship run-ins put pressure on ability. Some players expand into the challenge, others wither like spring shoots caught by a frost. As Tony Parkes recalls the final days of Blackburn Rovers' successful campaign two seasons ago: "There was fear in some of the players' faces.

"It's not a football problem, at the end it becomes a mental one," Blackburn's caretakermanager said. "It goes out of the manager's hands. There's not a lot he can do. All right, the more he's won the more experienced he is, the more he can help. But from a footballing point of view it's how strong and brave you

Alex Ferguson and Roy Evans will send their players out this weekend hoping that hearts will be brave. Manchester United and Liverpool, the most logical winners of the Premiership this season, both have seven matches to play and, as Parkes points out, skill is not the only ingredient that will decide which team prevails. This week-end could be decisive, but so could any of the next six.

United, three points ahead, have the advantage although their visit to Anfield on 19 April could millify that. They meet Derby County today while Liv-erpool, delayed by the Grand National, must wait until tomorrow to confront their bete nones. Coventry City, By then they will

**GUY HODGSON** 

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572 4

If anywhere illustrates the thin

line between football success

and failure, it will be Burnden

Park this afternoon. At the be-

ginning of the season Colin Todd was being jeered for sell-

ing Sasa Curcic; today the man-

ager will be acclaimed for taking

draw at home to ensure pro-

motioo that only a mathemat-

ical pedant would deny them

They might have gone up courtesy of Wolves' shortcom-ings last Monday but that near

miss was hardly a disappoint-

ment as it is patently preferable

to gain achievements first rather

"If it's going to happen then the best place is before your own supporters," Todd said. "We

than second hand.

Wanderers require only a

Bolton into the Premiership.

**Guy Hodgson** looks forward to a crucial weekend in the Premiership

"It's a good opportunity to make sure Liverpool are stretched all the time," Ferguson, who could write a thesis on title-induced pressure, said. "If we can keep winning matches theo eventually they are going to run out of games. We've got experience of things like this and we're playing well enough to

United's players are the most experienced in England at handling the stress of the final forlong and Ferguson did not expect to see his players wilt. "I'm not saying they're laughing and joking but they're enjoying it," he said. "They realise this is the sort of football they want. Seven games to go, bang

His selection problems revolve around David May and Gary Neville, who have ankle injuries, while Liverpool will be without the suspended Mark Wright, which might allow Phil Babb to play against his old club. Traditionally players mouth platitudes on the lines of "I don't

want them to be relegated" and then try their socks off to ensure they are, yet Babb, mindful of fixtures. Exerpool's need for points, hands.

local minds appropriately, the

Rangers, whose assistant man-

It was Rioch, of course, who

guided Bolton to the Premier-

going up has been better second

In 1995 Wanderers required

ager is Bruce Rioch.

time around.

other 14 goals.

**Bolton on brink of** 

feel sorry for any team that goes feel any more for Coventry than I would Southampton. Al-though some of the staff are still there, it's not really the same team is it? Most of the players I was with have gone."

Coventry took four points off Liverpool last season and would probably be happy with one to-morrow although similar results have hardly helped fellow strug-glers Nottingham Forest. "I'd rather have woo one and lost one," their general manager, Dave Bassett, said after two successive draws last month, since when they have takeo the sequence to four. They are third from bottom

and have played more games than most of the other clubs around them, including Southampton, their opponents at the City Ground today. "It's crunch time because draws aren't good enough," Dean Saunders, whose partnership with £4.5m Pierre van Hooidonk has yet to realise a goal in four starts, said. "We keep saying 'we've got to start winning and that time has arrived."

Southampton are four points addift of Forest but have two games in hand. Normally April marks their rapid ascent and with matches against four of the bottom five in their remaining fixtures, their fate is their own

We know we have the ta ent," Graeme Souness, their manager, said, "and the players to get us out of trouble. We have to start believing in ourselves and stop letting in sloppy goals."
As ever, much will revolve around Matthew Le Tissier, glorious promotion who is likely to play after re-covering from a foot injury that forced his withdrawal from

prefer to do things for our-selves." Poignantly, and in many England's squad last week. Souness has looked a weary man in recent weeks, trying to visitors will be Queen's Park elevate a team who seem to have a permanent place among the dregs, but for one manager today will be an uplifting ocship two years ago but he would be the first to acknowledge the casion no matter the result. Dave Watson begins his spell as caretaker player-manager at Everton, with seven games to show his worthiness to be con-

the play-offs to reach the clite. sidered on a permanent basis. this time they have headed the . He has started in a decisive First Division since January manner, recalling Paul Rideout and approach today's match 17 from China where he was about points clear at the top.

"Our principal ambition is to get promoted," Todd said, "but to join Huan Dao Vanguards. "More than likely I'll have four kids under the age of 20 on the bench at Aston Villa," he said. we'd also like to achieve a target of scoring 100 League goals and get 100 points." To do the "In those circumstances we cannot be without someone of latter Bolton need five points Pani's quality and experience." On the same theme, Watson will recall the veteran goaland a draw from their last six

Courbis, who coaches Bordeaux was jailed for tax evasion.

for a friendly against the Netherlands in February. A spokesman for his Paris St-Germain club said the goalanalysis to be undertaken.

made and he won't comment on



Dean Saunders (left) and Bryan Roy, of Nottingham Forest, share a joke in training yesterday Photograph: Empics

# Lama faces testing times

drug abuse and tax evasion. Two players failed doping tests - the France goalkeeper Bernard Lama for cannabis and the Lille midfielder David Garcion for steroids - while Roland

According to press reports, Lama failed a dope test while training with the French squad keeper had asked for a second

"Bernard won't make any comment on the case. He has asked for a second test to be

French football was in shock the case before the results are follow-up test confirmed traces vesterday after allegations of known," said a PSG spokesman, of steroids in the player's urine. Jean-Philippe d'Halyvillee. It was the longest suspension If he fails the second test and ever imposed on a French footis banned Lama, who has been baller for drug abuse.

"I will defend my case in due course. But I feel relieved that this case is revealed to the public," Garcion said. The mid-fielder said he had not knowingly taken steroids, was unaware of being given any and that he had been surprised to fail the test.

Courbis, accused of concealing more than 10 million francs (£1.1m) from his income tax, was sentenced by a Toulon court to six months in jail for "escaping the payment of income tax" during 1988 and 1989 when he was coach of the

Courbis claimed that he had had debts from gambling and had set up slush funds to pay for the transfers of players, adding that he had paid some players their wages in cash: "Everybody was doing the same thing," said the 43-year-old coach.

Courbis had already been given a three-year suspended sentence and a fine of 300,000 francs by a Marseille court in 1995 for embezzlement and fraud when he was the coach at Toulon.

He was seriously injured a year ago in the seaside resort of Hyères when a friend of his, Dominique Rutily, the chairman of the Corsican football club, Calvi, was shot dead by uniden-

# Saints' Goulding returns a new man

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Bobbie Goulding returns to St Helens' team in Paris tonight after a six-match absence, his appetite for his job sharpened by frustration and hitterness.

Goulding has missed Saints' first three games of the Super League season, plus the latter stages of their progress to Wemhley, because of his suspension for a high tackle in the Challenge Cup victory over

Wigan in February.
"It's been the longest eight weeks of my life," Goulding said. "I'm buzzing. I'm so eager to get going that I feel like a new

The new person, however, is still furious about the treatment meted out to the old one. "I'm very, very bitter about what was done to me," he said of his sending-off by Russell Smith and his original eight-match ban, subsequently reduced to six.

Tve seen far worse tackles in matches refereed by the same man and players haven't

eveo been sent off."
Goulding's complaint about
the lack of consistency from referees is as old as the hills. The new element in his latest suspension is how well Saints have managed without him.

The 18-year-old deputy scrum-half. Lee Briers, can reflect on a job well dooe as he steps aside for Goulding. St Helens have won every match with him at the helm.

"I can't take anything away from him at all," Goulding said. "It's a learning curve for him, just like it was for me under Andy Gregory at Wigan and for him under Reg Bowden at Widnes before that."

Goulding has been irritated by the suggestion that he feels threatened by Saints' success in his absence. "I've never said we were a one man team, so anybody saying the last few weeks have shown that we're not isn't telling me anything I don't know."

The pick of tomorrow's matches pits two teams up at the top of Super League with Saints, when the London Broncos go to Bradford, whose usual forward strength is undermined by the absence of the injured Jeremy Donougher and Warren Jowitt as well as Brian McDermott's suspension - which will be the subject of an appeal next week. Mick Morgan, temporarily in control of Castleford following

the denarture of John Joyner, plays the Australian, Adrian Vowles, at scrum-half instead of Danny Orr at Sheffield.

# IOC asked to take action over women

Olympic Games

A women's group yesterday called on the International Olympic Committee to apply the same sanctions against countries that discriminate against women in sport as were imposed oo apartheid South

The Atlanta/Sydney Plus Group, organised to pressure the IOC to end discrimination in the Olympic movement on basis of sex, is in Geneva to take its cause to the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

A spokesman for the group said the IOC, based in Lansanne, was violating its own charter by not acting.

"The Olympics are ruled only by the Olympic charter which excludes any form of discrimination," the spokeswoman, Linda Weil-Curiel of France, said. "If countries don't want to compete then they shouldn't send anyone

- men or women. Why should men be allowed to participate when women areo't? This is what we ask the IOC, to be courageous ask me 100, in the sound and become the first rider to win a are the favourites.

# Law leads way to the final Australian rules

More strong performances by the British America's Cup crew in Auckland have put them in joint lead with the New York Yacht Club going into the final day of a four-way play off for the right to meet the cup holders, Team New Zealand, writes Sto-

games while they require an-

Both Britain, represented by the Royal Dorset Yacht Club and skippered by Chris Law with local America's Cup man Murray Jones as tactician, and New York - skippered by Ed

Baird - have played five, won four in a round-robin which includes France's Société Nautique Port Camargue, skippered by Bernard Mallaret, and San Francisco's America Tirue, with Rod Davis at the helm.

keeper Neville Southall.

Britain face France, whom they have already beaten, in their final race today. Baird lines up against Davis and, if Baird wins to tie the event, there will be sudden-death play-off be-tween Britain and New York. The winner meets New Zealand in a best of three tomorrow.

# Rominger's record attempt

Tony Rominger is to attempt to win back the world one-hour record held by Chris Boardman later this year. The Italian bike maker Ernesto Colnago, have prepared a special bike for the 36-year-old Swiss rider. The date and place will be decided after

tests on Saturday and Monday. Belgium's Johan Museeuw, the World Cup champion, will start tomorrow's Tour of Flanders despite being injured. Museeuw, who is attempting to

hat-trick of World Cup titles, is musing the shoulder injury he picked up in the first race of this year's series, the Milan-San Remo, two weeks ago.

After abandoning a race in Belgium last weekend, Museeuw looked unlikely to start the Flemish classic but 8 win in the Panne Three Days which ended on Thursday persuaded him he was ready to ride. Last year's winner and currently fifth in the World Cup rankings, Michele Bartoli, and the Ukrainian Andrei Tchmil

SPORTING DIGEST

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cellend 5 Cleveland 4; Bel-more 5 Kansas City 4; Minnesota 10 Detroit ; Anaheira 2 Boston 0, Postponed: Milweukee 0; American 2; Bosson O; Praesponent Americano et Tesas. NATIONAL LEMBIRE Colorado 7 Cincinnes 1: Nor York Metz 4 San Diego 1: Florido 8 Chicego Caba 2: Mantreel 9 St. Louis 4; Allema 3 Houston 2; Los Angeles 2 Philadelphile 1: San Francisco 7 Plataturis 7:

HEAA: MARTIN E2 Indiana 78: Charlotte 93 New Jersey 87; LA Cippers 113 Orlando 94: Wash-ingun 110 Chicago 102; Seattle 103 Milintu-hee 80; Golden State 105 Delles 90. EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION L Pet 68 18 .753 -21 .712 5 23 .548 15 35 .521 17 50 .315 32 51 .292 33<sup>3</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 61 .176 42<sup>3</sup>/<sub>2</sub>



Sacramento 29
Solden State 27
Clinched play-off berth
† Clinched Division title

BETSTEIN/DOWN. CPUCKET COUNCE. TROPHY (Kanta Lumpus) Quartor-finals: Group E: Kenye 1,63 (48.2 overs): Scotland 37-3 (23 overs). Kenya won on faster run wide in mile-Kenya 1,53 (48.2 overs); Scotland 37-3 (48.2 overs). Kenya woo on Saabar van wale in raiso-affected match. Denmark 126 (48.1 overs); Canada 119 (27.2 overs), Denmark won word word. Eroup P. Irstand 223 for 7 (50 overs); Hong Kong 1,72 (45.3 overs), Ireland wore by 57, raus. Netherlands 1,71 (49.5 overs); Sangladesh 1,41 for 7 (5.1.4 overs), Sangladesh won taster sooring rate in

Garcion.

capped 35 times by France.

could miss the Tournoi de

France in June - a preparatory tournament for the 1998 World

Cup involving Italy, Brazil and

month ban he could count him-

self fortunate when compared

with the punishment given to

Lille club sources said the

player had been banned for 18

months by the French football

federation, after testing positive

for steroids at the end of a league match between Nice

and Lille on December 20. A

Should Lama receive a two-

Football Martin O'Connor, the Birmingham mid-fielder, has been banned for three matches following his sending-off at Crystal Palace last Saturday. Bristol City will cap their centenery year

celebrations with a Merseyside pre-sea-son double this summer as Liverpool and Everton are to play at Ashton Gate on 23 July and 1 August respectively. Jeff Bonser, the Walsali chairman, has put contract talks with Chris Nicholl, manager of the Second Division club, on hold until the end of the season while the club are chasing a play-off place. Ricardo Sa Pinto, the player who last week attacked Artur Jorge, the Portugal coach, was suspended from the Portuguese League yesterday, just days after he was barred from International matches.

matches.

Patrick Kluivert, Ajar's star striker, will undergo a meniocus operation on his right innea, according to a Dutch television report, but no date was given for the operation and it is not known whether Kluivert will be able to play in next Wednesday's Champions' League semifinal match against Juventus, a replay of last year's final.

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: leis Langue Pre-

of last year's final.
THEREDIVIS LATE REBILITS: leis Langue Premise Distaine: Summ that 3 Agentusy 3. Seconal Distainer: Leatherhead 3 Sentence Atlaint
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Hadings 3 Wetton 1 Dist 2 Winderbeam Kenst
Langue Fiest Division: Caracatusy (by 1 Greenwich Borough 2: Herne Bay 0 Furnas 1. Autojustimane. Consideration First Division: Arisratio Bristol Revers 1. Spenish Cap SeatSeater Seater Seate

NHL: Toronto Detroit 2 (ed; NY Rangers 5 Boston 4; Ottawa 4 Washington 0; Hardford 5 Pittsburgh 5 (ed; NY Islanders 5 ST Louis 5 (ed; Edmonton 4 Chicago 2; Phoents 5 Los Angoles 4. EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION 

WESTERN CONFERENCE CENTRAL DIVISION PACIFIC DIVISION 

Rugby League
Australian super league firth round:
Manly See Eigles 34 Sydney City Roosless
24, Stoth round: Parnthi Parthers 38 Hunter
Mariners 24.
THURSDAY'S LATE, RESPUTS: Youth Intermational French Problems's XI 24 BARLA Gt Britain S (or Robinson Std, Party).

Canched play-off berth

Rugby Union Super 12: Auckland Blues 29 Centerbury Crusaders 28.

Squash:
LENES BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS
(Cardiff: Mert Second round: C Walter (Englist D Bruns (Wal) 13-15-12-15-15-9-15-6
15-12; Insnier Nizar (Pal) to I Mnepo (Aus)
15-9-15-9-15-9-10-10-10-15-10-15-11-13-15
15-12; R Eyles (Aus) 15-10-15-11-13-15
15-15-9-15-12-15-11- Wessert Second round: J Martin (Englist R Grinfram (Aus) 9-8
9-2-9-2: F Gesses (Glouss) to S Schone (Gor)
9-6-10-8-4-9-4. Quarter-finale: S Fix-Geraid (Aus) bt L Iving (Aus) 9-1-9-3-9-2; S Wright (Englist L Charman (Englis-9-7-9-5-9-4.

Tentials

PAMBLY CRICLE CUP (Hitten Heed Island, a Carotina) Woman's singles third round: M Hingis (Swit) bt a Schett (Aut) 6-3 6-3; A Costor (SA) bt A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) 6-2 5-7 6-0; B Schultz-McCarthy (Neth) bt J Novena (C; Reol 6-3 6-3; C Martinez (Sp) bt J Capital (US) 6-0 5-7 6-4; A Huber (Gar) bt I Majoli (Croe) 3-6 7-6 6-3; W Probat (Gar) bt I Spirlan (Ron) 4-1, (say; Limbay Davenport (US) bt a Paskus (Aut) 6-2 6-4.

PAMSE CYLL SIM Mides Zene Green (Inc.)

sels, Belt: Belgium level with Desmark 1-1: F Dewulf (Beb bt K Carissen (Dev) 6-6-6-6-1; J Van Herck (set to F Fetterlein 6-6-7-6-2-6-1-6. (Bestistans): Sievalde leed israel 2-0: D History te F Rm 6-3-4-6-6-3-6-4; K Kucses bt N Behr 6-1-6-3-6-0.

Nuclear II. N Behr 16-1 6-3 6-0.
When'd Group quarter-filmate (Maxio, Sue):
Sweden lead South Africa 1-0: T Engest bt.
G Staffory 7-5 2-6 6-4 6-1. (Passare): Ruly-leads Spain 1-0: O Camporess bt C May 6-7
6-7 6-1 6-3 6-3, Adelaide): Americalis lead
Caseb Repubble 2-0: P Raiffer (Aus) bt. M
Damm (Cz Rep) 6-1, 7-6 4-6 6-4; M Philippoussis bt D Rid 6-1 6-4 2-6 6-4.
Asia/Decarie Zone Group One Liaisartai: pouses of D He 6-16-42-66-4.
Asin/Occaping Zone Group One Claisarte):
New Zeelend lead Indonesis 2-0: M Melson
(NZ) by Suwand, (ndort) 7-5-35-4-4. A Hurst
A Returnating 6-3-6-0-6-3. (Pelding): South
Koren lead Chine 2-0: Lee Hyung-Sik bi Xis.

Raping 6-1 2-6 2-8 7-6 6-1; Yoon Yong-I bt Pan Bet 6-3 6-4 6-2. Group Two: (Belnat); Lobecon lead Thelizand 2-0; H Zastani, bt V Samret 3-6 6-3 6-2; A Harmed bt N Scrictophen 7-5 7-6 7-6. (Riyeshit: Bendi Aza-bia lead Hong Roog 1 7-2 Al-Mogayal bt Wayne Wong 6-4 7-6 6-3.

Wolgintiffting
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Pod., Finland):
Mess: 5446; 1. A Portitio (Sp.) americh 100.5,
jerk 130.0, 1021 lit; 223.5; 2 V Geinletz (Ge)
97.5, 130.0, 227.5; 3 G Sonamino (d) 100.0,
120.0, 220.0, 5946; 1 J Walling (Fr) 112.5,
140.0, 252.5; 2 T Kingarda (Gr) 105.0, 137.5,
242.5; 3 A Cascin (Sp.) 107.5, 132.5, 240.0.
84kg; 1 Naves (Por) 105.0, 135.0, 240.0.
2 B Devonshire (GB) 100.0, 132.5, 232.5;
3 J Weiling (Fin) 105.0, 125.0, 240.0.
Women's 46 kg; 1 E Itsm (Sp) 65.0, 87.5,
152.5; 2 D Marice (til) 60.0, 72.5, 132.5; 3
K Rasby (GB) 50.0, 67.5, 117.5, 504g; 1 R
Sires (Sp) 72.5, 65.0, 157.5; 2 M Portitio (Sp)
62.5, 77.5, 140.0; 2 M Dainevo (til) 60.0,
75.0, 135.0; 4 C Charles (GB) 57.5, 65.0,
122.5, 544g; 1 A Stroubou (Gr) 77.5, 92.6,
170.0; 2 E Fernandez (Sp) 75.0, 90.0, 185.0;
3 C Mueller (Ge) 70.0, 90.0, 180.0; 5 D Alterur (GB) 62.5, 77.5, 140.0, 594g; 1, Perez
(Sp) 82.5, 100.0, 182.5; 2 E Nysaidou (G2)
80.0, 95.0, 175.0, 3 I Aconir (til) 70.0, 95.0,
165.0; 4 M Breeze (GB) 72.5, 90.0, 182.5;

TODAY'S NUMBER

\$1.061bn

Baseball's total pay-roll £661m] for the season just started. The six-year contract. extension deal worth \$61m between Florida Marlins and Gary Sheffield agreed on Wednesday is the largest deal in baseball history.

US MASTERS: Augusta – white, middle class, élitist – could be conquered for the first time by a black American golfer. Woods, Nike's \$28m wonderkid, has the talent to succeed, says Andy Farrell, who also (right) explains his driving force

# All eyes on Tiger as he enters jungle

tees off in Augusta oext Thursday the eyes of the golfing world will he oo ooe man.

Tiger Woods has made such a pheoomenal impact oo the sport since last summer that the pressure on him will be ecormous. To win the touroameot in his first year as a prufessiooal would be an extraordinary feat, yet many will be expecting it of him. Were he to do so the accomplishmeot would resocate way beyood the sports pages.

Woods has all the necessary ingredients. At 21, he hits the ball as far as John Daly, hut straighter. He has the competitive instincts of Jack Nicklaus, coming hack from five-down and two-down with three to play oo his way to win-ning his third US Amateur final last August.

He is a showman. Having win two of his first seven professiooal tournameots. Woods qualified for the Mereedes Championships and in the play-off almost holed in ooe after Tom Lehman had gone in the water. The roar was deafening. Woods' taleot is only ooe

reason why a victory in the Masters would make such an impact. The other is his ethnic background. His father, Earl, is an African-American who was a Green Beret in Vietnam. He nicknamed his soo Tiger after a Vietnamese soldier friend. Woods' mother, Kultida, is the daughter of a wealthy Thailand family.

Of all the major American sports, golf is the one most dominated by the white middle elass. If overt racism is largely - a thing of the past there are still few black faces to he seen on the fairways or in the club-houses oo the tour. And, at ooe time, oo tournameot made its discrimination clearer than the Masters, which carried all the prejudice that might be expected from a tournament staged in the

deep South. Clifford Roberts, the autocratic chairman of the club for more than 40 years, reputedly said that so long as he was io charge a hlack man would never play at Augusta. Until 1961, hlack players were oot permitted to play oo tour hecause of the infamous Caucasian rule. When Charlie Sifford was leading the Canadian Opeo after two rounds in 1962, officials from Augusta

ing that year's winner would oot, as usual, he invited to the

following year's Masters. For the few hlack players oo the US tour, qualifying for Augusta then become ao ob-

It nearly happeoed in 1968, wheo Lee Elder got through to a three-way play-off in the American Golf Classic. It was eventually woo by Nicklaus at the fifth extra hole.

"I think I put too much pressure on myself to win," Elder said. "If I led a tournament going into the last day, or the hack nine, I'd be thinking about Augusta. I wanted it so badly because I knew what Cliff Roberts was: 1 knew what a racist he was."

Finally, Elder woo the Monsanto Opeo in April 1974, which meant his dehot at Augusta was given almost a year's worth of build-up. Wheo he arrived at the tournament, a hlack atteodaot welcomed him to the locker-room and said: "We've been saving this locker right here, saving it for

'I don't consider myself a Great Black Hope. I'm just a golfer who happens to be black and Asian'

the black that qualified for the Masters.

It was not until 1990, following the controversy at the US PGA Championship at Shoal Creek when the club's owner, Hall S Thompson, said it was "just not done in Birmingham" to admit hlack members, that Augusta announced their first black member - Ron Townsend, a televisioo executive from Washington - although the then chairman, Hord Hardin, said that they had been considering the move for some time. Townseed could be joined by Woods should he win a Greeo Jacket as everyone, including

Nicklaus, expects him to. The week after Woods turned pro, Nike ran an'ad campaign which had Woods saying: "There are still courses in the US I am not allowed to play because of the colour of my skio. Hello World. I've heard I'm oot

ready for you. Are you ready

The conservative golfing community was not ready for Nike's shock tactics. Club pros, mainly from the South, threatened oot to stock Nike and Titleist products. The campaign

was swiftly, if quietly, dropped.
Things evolve at Augusta
National. It took years of campaigning by the leading players before they were al-lowed to bring their regular tour caddies rather than use the cluh's (black) caddies. In recent years, some of the faces waiting in the clubhouse have been white. Woods has played there twice as an amateur, finishing 41st in 1995 and missing the ent last year.

But in the 12 mooths that have followed, Woods' life has changed irrevocably. "He is the most exciting young athlete to come along since Michael [Jordan] arrived in 1984," said Phil Knight, the king of Nike, who, along with Titleist, handed Woods a \$43m (£26.8m) coming of age present when he turned pro

"Michael said that since he's been a professional athlete he's really only had one hero and that was Tiger Woods. I thought that was a remarkable

Woods could not have made more of an impact since he chose golf as a career over the final two years of his degree course at Stanford University. His US Amateur victory was one of the highest-rated golf television programmes of the year in America – the highest was wheo Woods went up against John Daly in the Skins Game later in the year.

Recently, Woods was asked whether Augusta was one of the places he was referring to in the Nike ad and whether that had changed his opinioo of the club. "No, it's just another tournament," he replied.
"I'm going to go over there and try to win it." Asked what he would change about the course and the club, he talked about the excessive hardness of the greens, but of the club just said: I will leave it at that.

tieket holders. Augusta will miss out oo part of the Woods phenomeoon. Wherever he has played as a professional. crowds of a far more mixed ethnic hackground have turned out to see him. "I don't consider myself a Great



With its closed list of season. Burning bright: Tiger Woods steels himself for the greatest test of a burgeoning career

'I'm just a golfer who happens six clinics to inner-city schoolto be hlack and Asian.

"It doesn't matter whether they're white, black, brown or green. All that matters is that I touch kids the way I can through clinics and they ben-Black Hope," Woods has said. efit from them." He will give least the expense of the game, will do something that none of

There are many hurdles, not thinks it can happen. "Tiger

to be overcome before all the the rest of us did. He's going promotes a full shoulder turn children for the Tiger Woods Michael Jordans will want to Foundation, whose executive be Tiger Woodses instead, director, Paul Fregia, said: but Charlie Sifford, whose "We're going to change the - autohiography, Just Let Me face of golf."

Play, has influenced Woods,

Photograph: Matt York/AP

to do something I always wanted to do hut oever really got the opportunity to. He's shoulder turn is so full that his going to win a lot, and when shirt restricts his backswing. To he does there's going to be free himself up. Tiger tucks the kids who notice it, and think upper part of his shirt siecve about playing golf."

# Secrets of golf's biggest hitter

There is a set of bunkers at Angusta National which owe their existence to Jack Nicklans. The "Golden Bear", whose he was a mere cub, simply flew over all the fairway bunkers then in place, so more wer

then in place, so more were added and others moved.
Tiger Woods, like Nickians, or Greg Norman and Seve Ballesteros in their young days and like John Daly until recently, simply hits the ball forther than anyone else in the game. Whether, without the help of modern club and ball technology, Woods would achieve the distances he does is irrelevant. The fact is that Woods is airmailing all those Nicklaus bunkers.

Io his two appearances as an amateur in the Masters, Woods averaged 311,1 yards off the tee in 1995 and 342.0 last year Woods also hit 26 of 28 fairways. Norman's mantie as the longest, straightest hitter has also fallen to the prodigy.

So, how does he do it' "This kid is the most funda mentally sound golfer I've ever seen almost at any age. He hits the ball nine million miles and without a swing that looks like he is trying to."
You would accuse the

speaker of hyperbole, except that it is six-times Masters champion Nicklaus.

Tiger's game is rooted in sound fundamentals," said Butch Harmon, Woods' coach. "His grip, posture, alignment and ball position are textbook. The swing itself is superb mechanically and is performed with excellent balance and rhythm."

Woods, who works out like any young athlete, is blessed with a body, at 6ft 2in and 11 stone that is both strong and flexible. It is this flexibility which allows him to make a large shoulder turn with a minimum of hip rotation. This stores a huge amount of energy al the top of his backswing and wheo this is released on the downswing, it is like a whip be-

His hips are very quick through the ball. Faldo's coach, David Lcadbetter.. "The club is still going back as he's coming down. Rick Smith, who counts the Golden Bear amongst his clientele, added: "Tiger has got the fastest rotational speed I have ever seen."

Harmon explains: A low. wide takeaway is an important feature of Tiger's swing. It and a wide swing arc. two keys for maximum distance. His under the shoulder seam."

# Olazabal has the blues as he loses rhythm on greens

ANDY FARRELL reports from New Orleans

Was it only a few days ago that Jose Maria Olazabal was saying how glad he was just to be here, glad to be enjoying playing again, that he was more relaxed and not getting so angry on the course? In which case it is good news that the fumes were escaping faster than from a battered old Seat after his first round oo Thursday afternoon.

Olazabal had just missed a three-foot birdie putt at the last and he was giving a fine imper-sonation of the highly self-critical young man who has scowled his way past reporters after many a round in the past. Having gooe to the turn in 38, and picked up those two dropped shots on the way home, missing the chance to end his day under par was not to his liking. This tournament is being advertised under the slogan: "Rhythm and Greens", but Olazabal definitely had the hiues.

smiling and Europe will have Augusta. Olazabal is certainly our only serious contender in the Freeport-McDermott Classic after Seve Ballesteros (flo) and smile. There was good reason. Sam Torrance (wrist) were forced to withdraw. It is not long since Olazabal

was among the crocks, sitting out 18 months with his foot injuries. there, hit his approach to two Brad Faxoo who had joined He has got quickly back oo his feet at the ninth, holed from them on seveo under by picking

Championship, all we need to do outings. He is playing seriously is get Colin Montgomerie to stop good golf, and he knows it. Yesterday morning, in his second three significant cootenders at round over the English Turn course, he took the chance to rest his feet whenever possible and even allowed himself the odd

> Olazabal's first birdie came at the short third and then he claimed four in a row from the eighth. He holed from 10 feet

With Nick Faldo slipping back feet, with finishes of 12th, fourth eight feet at the oext and got up into terse mode at the Players' and first in his three European and down from the back of the green at the par-five 11th. The streak came to an end when he left his 18-footer at the 12th short of the cup.

A dropped shot at the 14th was immediately recovered at the 15th to leave the Spaniard at five under and two adnift of the first round leaders, Larry Rinker, David Toms and the defending champion, Scott McCarron, all of whom were late starters, and

day while Ireland will meet

Kuala Lumpur for the next

lournament along with Bangladesh, Kenya and Cana-

da as the top four common-

entry into the 16-team compe-

tition in September 1998 as hosts. It will be the first time the

sport has been played at the Commonwealth Games.

Eight of the 16 teams at the

West Indies, the ninth, will be represented by the top three teams in their domestic Red

Stripe competition.

Why cricket is so boring.

The Scots will return to

Kenya on Sunday.

up three shots in 15 holes. Mc-Carron's 65 was the lowest open-of the ooo-qualifiers at the ing round by the previous year's winner in the 38-year-old history of the tournament. McCarron puts his comfort level at English Turn down to the course's architect, Jack Nicklaus. "Jack likes to hit high cut shots and so do L" he said.

Olazabal was runner-up here three years ago to Beo Creushaw, who is another feeding off good memories of this venue. The twice Masters champion has missed the cut in all his six

Muralitharan's

Players' Championship. Over the weekend, he took a few lessons from Tom Watsoo and Butch Harmon, Tiger Woods' coach, and Crenshaw was re-COGCI, and Crenshaw was re-warded with an opening 71.

PREEPORT-MeDERMOTT CLASSIC (Emglish Ture, New Orlsman) Brat-round scores (US. unless stated): 85 L. Ravier, S. McCarman, D. Torne; 68 H. Kasseth, 27 Mby. S. Hoch, 3. Hughes (Aus.), 8 Maydar, 8 Fason, T Trybe; 68 J. Locketh, 27 Mby. S. Hoch, 20 J. Hoch, Y. Komelo Liph, P. Sawent, 8 Heartinger, D. Love, Y. Komelo Liph, P. Sawent, 8 Heartinger, D. Love, Y. Komelo Liph, P. Sawent, 8 Heartinger, D. Live, Y. Komelo Liph, P. Sawent, 8 Heartinger, D. Sawenton, J. Sawenton, Jr., S. Sawen, D. Perell, J. Huston, M. Brooke, R. Cochean, J. Dowdel, M. Grinster, 7. A. Serpann, H. Hoye, S. Surliep, B. Elungton (Aus.), E. Dougserty, 3.

McCalletter, & Glasson, & Cremstraw, & Rocca (b), M Rexi, F Licitizer, D Berron, R Black, & Bryanc, R Damon, P Chadon, I. Clamants, J O'Reefe, K Sutherland, E Johnson: 72 T Aerous, M Whobe, I Hermon, J Leonard, J Permek (Sard), & Parry, D Hert, P Jorden, P Horgan, P Tazarrang (SC), J Green, T Parice, J Hoyes, S Hart, D Sutherland, P Blackman, G Bowden, G Day, I Snoteler, J Gallagher, S Lowey, J M Olosoba (SO), K Trocc, H Sutoca, J Etherste, L Porter, A Doyle, A Rossinguez, TS J Deleing, K Ghaon, G Dy, I Snoteler, J Gallagher, S Lowey, J M Chaoba (SO), K Trocc, H Sutoca, J Etherste, L Porter, A Doyle, A Rossinguez, T McGover, D Gabor, C Brown, S Calle, M Springer, M Gasty (Aus), M Henren, B Calberger, T Hollan, G Wessel, R Store, S Carle, E Autroy, A Magee, J McGovern, T-Tolles, S Febel, T Dermey, J Megahren, S Kordell, G Herristadt (Swe), T S Sierrach, A Médrick, Swe), J Hart, D Thompson, I. Mestison, S Sierrach, R Gudding, T Tyrey, 77 S Monteel, B Syctarfield, J Johnston, J Dugert, S Waterlerk, J Magnet, E Ross, S Sierrach, R Ross, S Shopp, 78 P Maghemer, T J Markelby, C Beneach, W Austra & P Magneties, T J Markelby, C Beneach, W Austra & P Magneties (See),

# Scotland and Ireland reach the semi-finals

Scotland and Ireland are both through to the semi-finals of the 1CC Tropby after another rain affected day in Kuala Lumpur. At least one of them will now play in the World Cup finals in England in 1999 as three teams will qualify.

The Scots had to endure an agonising few hours wait before learning they would go through after they lost their unbeaten record to Kenya. They had made 37 for 3 off 23 overs in reply to Kenya's all out total of 153 when their match was abandoned. At that point their run- rate was a paltry t.61 compared to Kenya's 3.17, so victory was awarded to the

The defeat enabled Denmark to draw level oo points with them in Group E by completing a thrilling seven-run win over Canada, but Scotland went

beaten Denmark by 45 runs in their first quarter-final game.

Alex Ritchie, general manger of the Scottish Cricket Union, said: "Il is marvellous news and it means now that at least one team from the British Isles will qualify for the 1999 World Cup from this competi-

"We weot into this tournament as one of the second seeds and it is a credit to the lads that we have proved the experts "Our problem in recent years

has been a lack of media attention but during this competition the support we have received has been amazing.
"Now we need to build on this and I am sure that it will en-

courage youngsters to take up the game which is one of our major aims." The European champions, Ireland, cruised to a 51-run win over Hong Kong, making 223 for 78 in their 50 overs before dis-

ry when they face Kenya.

The Ireland coach, Mike Hendrick, paid tribute to his team's performance. "I am absolutely delighted for the boys because they have been through a lot over the past year," he said. Anything can happen in one-day cricket and although we now face the favourites Kenya, I know that they are beatable."

The former England pace bowler is confident about tomotrow's game despite his side having lost to the Africans by 119 earlier in the tournament.

He added: "I just hope that we use the memory of that game in a positive way and that it spurs the players on to get a different result this time. We played very badly in that game and we have got a point in prove Robin Walsh, public relations

ufficer for the Irish Cricket

Union, said: "We now have two

Irish oow face one of the most 
Cup finals in England which the top of Group F. Bangladesh important games of their histo- would be a great moment for took first place on run-rate and would be a great moment for Irish cricket. We played Kenya in an earlier qualifying game and although we lost, at least we know what we are up against.

"Obviously they will start as favourites but I know the boys will be doing their best to get to the final. If both us and Scotland get through to the final it will be out of this world." Bangladesh joined Scotland,

Ireland and Kenya in the semi-finals when they defeated the Netherlands, World Cup final-ists in 1996, on a faster scoring rate in a rain-reduced match. The Netherlands made 171 all Commonwealth Games will be Test-playing nations. They are Australia, England, India, Pak-istan, Sri Lanka, New Zealand. out in 49.5 overs and had Bangladesh at 56 for 4 when rain intervened. But when play resumed Bangladesh were giveo a revised target of 141 from 33 South Africa and Zimhabwe. overs and they eased home with

eight balls to spare. Akram Khan's unbeaten 67 steered them home. The result means that Bangladesh finished through by virtue of having missing Hong Kong for 172. The chances to get to the 1999 World level on points with Ireland at

#### spin inspires Sri Lanka win Sri Lanka 243-8 they will face Scotland on Tues-

Pakistan 224-9 Sri Lanka win by 19 runs

Pakistan's middle-order sur-rendered and handed Sri Lanyear's Commonwealth Games ka a 19-run victory in the wealth nations in the Trophy. Malaysia earn an automatic

Sharjah Cup yesterday.
Pakistan, chasing Sri Lanka's
243 for 8, were well placed
when Shahid Afridi's 67 uff 55
bells and Salim Malik's 51 took them to 173 for 4 by the 38th over, but they lost five wickets for 24 to end up with 224 for 9.
Off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan made up for dropping a skier off Shahld early in his innings by taking three wickets in

three overs to turn the match. Sri Lanka's score was built 00 a national record-equalling 184. run stand for the third wicker hetweeo Aravinda De Silva (97) and Marvan Alapattu (94). SHURLAH CUP (Shedua): Sri Lanta 243-8 IP A Da Sha 97. M S Alapattu 94; Padestan 224-9 (Shahul Addi 67, Salim Mark St.).

# Rain delays W Indies

reports from Antigua West Indies v India

It had oot rained here for six weeks before Thursday night but the unseasonal weather caught up with the fourth Test between India and the West Indies and prevented play before

lunch on the opening day. The forecast was for a return to the usual Caribbean sunshine at this time of the year during the afternoon and the umpires. Steve Bucknor and B C Cooray scheduled an inspection for half an hour after the interval

with the skies already clearing.
A prompter start would have been in prospect but for the contiming anachronistic method of covering and mopping up at the Recreation Ground. The only way of getting rid of the water that had collected on the flat. plastic covers was for the conscripted ground staff from the adjoining prison to use makeshift

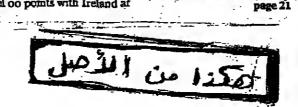
sponges and garbage cans con-verted into buckets. As a Test venue since 1981 and with the West Indies bidding to host the World Cup by 2001, the system seemed entirely out of place.

The West Indies lead the five

Test series 1-0 after their dramatic victory in Barbados on Monday when their fast bowlers routed India for \$1 when they required only I20. It has left India's young captain, Sachin Ten-dulkar, with the difficult task of reviving the shattered spirits of his team and influencing them into the aggression they must

now show to keep their interests in the series alive. They would have to do without the services of Navjot Singh Sidhu, their experienced opener and double-century maker in the second Test, who came down with malarial fever overnight and had to withdraw.

For the West Indies, Courtney Walsh resumes as captain, having recovered from the straioed hamstring that kept him out of the Barbados Test.



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150th GRAND NATIONAL: Outsider has the chance to take advantage of inside knowledge and make up for an old disappointment

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# A philosopher's circuitous pursuit of fame

One of the many stories Taffy Salaman likes to tell concerns navigational difficulties in the Swedish Grand National. More precisely, those of a fellow British jockey who, after twice walking the course, still wasn't sure that he would be heading in the right direction.

In the circumstances it made sense to let others take up the running but he wasn't entirely happy with that option. "What if I find myself out in front," he said. "If you're that worried, buy

a map," Salaman chuckled. There was certainly no lack of direction or purpose from Salaman 20 years ago today, when, then as now a trainer, he almost changed the shape of National history. His Churchtown Boy was the horse that came closest to preventing Red Rum from winning his record

Topham Trophy over a circuit of the National course. Salaman, who sends out the

50-1 chance Northern Hide for today's National with similarly ambitious dreams, comes across as something of a philosopher. Quite recently a car collided with the horse he was walking back from the gallops. "We were both thrown upwards and the horse came down on to the bonnet smashing it's forelegs, and had to be put down," he said. Salaman's injuries could easily have been a lot worse, but he is still unable to rotate his right arm above the elbow. As he says, you never know what

is around the next comer. It has been that way since he first got a taste for racing as a

Grand National - Aintree 3.45

101 101 101 101

litis. He had been reading about Chinese mandarins and saw a horse of that name winning on television. "All kids get ideas of what they want to be and from that moment I saw myself as a jockey," he said. Soon afterwards he was up on scrawny ponies hired for five shillings a day, riding bareback and causing havoc in the streets of his

neighbourhood. The son of a Welsh mother and an Arab father, Marshalla Ali "Taffy" Salaman was raised in the then grim, impoverished Cardiff area of Tiger Bay, that was home to the rugby league great, Billy Boston and former British heavyweight champion, Joe Erskine. At 15 he went as an apprentice to the great Ryan Price, trainer of Gold Cup win-

Taffy Salaman sent Churchtown Boy in pursuit of Red Rum and National glory 20 years ago. Now, as Ken Jones finds out, Northern Hide gives him another chance

Martha's Son finds the legs to

ners on the Flat, but there was to be no rush of fame, just the disappointments that many young jockeys experience.

Moving on after a year he waited three more for his second ride. Most of the time it was simply a case of hanging on in there, bringing home 36 winners in his best season. He worked for Earl Jones, then Posey Lewis, whose establishment was swallowed up by the develop-ment of Cardiff airport, and

Unusually, he continued to ride after setting out as a train-

effects of flu, would have been on Churchtown Boy in that

1977 pursuit of Red Rum. "The horse was so lively that didn't have to think twice about running him in the National but I wasn't up to it myself, so Martin Blackshaw got the ride," he said.

If a mistake at the second last took so much steam out of Churchtown Boy that he finished 25 lengths adrift of the winner, Salaman remains convinced that advice given to Tommy Stack by Brian Fletcher, who brought Red Rum

and 1974, was critical to the ont-come. Fletcher felt that if Stack British licence to train 10 years when contesting the Mildmay had kicked on from Becher's Brook the previous year, Red Rum would have worn down Rag Trade. "That was it," Salaman said. "After Becher's we were run into the ground."

Jumping Becher's on Churchtown Boy in 1980, the last of his five National rides, Salaman almost landed on top of the fatally injured Alverton and came off.

Riding is one thing. Training is another, "It is very difficult to combine the two because trainers and jockeys have a different perspective," Sala-man added, "Inevitably, the trainer gets much more in-volved. Jockeys often form attachments, but most of the

ago, electing to transfer his skills to Saudi Arabla for several seasons. It was only at the start of the current campaign that he reopened for business at the Russley Park stables at Baydon in Wiltshire, where Northern Hide joined him from Ireland last October to swell the stable strength to 12.

An attempt at emulating Churchtown Boy by tackling the Topham Trophy on the first day of the Aintree meeting was the trainer's preferred target for Northern Hide, but he was outvoted by the gelding's joint owners, Graham and Maureen Hunt and John and Wendy Cook. "They went for the glam-

Left at the start and kicked into at the final ditch, Northern

tenham Festival last month. Earlier, at Sandown, on unsuitably fast ground, he was beaten 21/2 lengths by one of his adversaries today. Dextra Dove, after two more, shorterpriced, National rivals, Go Ballistic and Avro Anson, had departed from the contest.

"Nice horse, well halanced, jumps well, not short of guts and knows when to take a hreather," Salaman said. Paul Holley has the ride and his report after taking Northern Hide out on Tuesday was well

on the right side of favourable. Brilliant sunshioe added greatly to the attraction of a shallow Wiltshire valley. A small prayer? "Make it a big one" Salaman replied.

# Each way a quarter the critis, places 1.2, 3,4

Ain	tree 2.20	)
Horse	Corel	Yeste
Collingo	4-1	9.
Brobe	9-2	94
/yelic Kinsusu	51	4.1
Time Won't Wat	4-1	54
Lord Doront	7-1	6.1
Yine Hiver	12-1	10-1
Jointy	10-1	14:1
Motor Oddy	14-1	12-1
Pullical Towar	14-1	10-1
Down The Felt	14-1	20:1



#### o Balledo - 10-1, 10-1, 10-1, 10-1 91 101 101 101 91 101 101 81 91 104 104 101 o Stegono 141 121 111 141 MA Bond 101 121 121 141 184 161 141 161 184 161 161 141 Corner Wille 20:1 14:1 14:1 16:1 141 251 201 20 de Devo - 33-1 33-1 40-1 33-331 251 281 401 New Co 401 401 401 401 Render Dix 281 331 201 401 Midopottel . 504 504 504 404 Beautifice 50-1 40-1 40-1 50-1 Market 180 401 804 401 504 501 501 681 501 Miller Wester 501 401 881 501 Der Mande 501 401 401 661

Straight Thing 50-1 86-1 86-1 86-1 Reck Ster 100-1 66-1 100-1 100-1 Colle Many 66-1 100-1 68-1: 100-1 Rail Of Oaks 100-1 68-1 66-1 66-1 Grandi Barba 100-1 58-1 50-1 100-1 861 1001 1001 661 Cornelet Height 190-1 100-1 160-1 125-1 Opiges Boy 3004 5004 3804 1004 Magnel Beach 150-1 66-1 100-1 125-1 Scales 100-1 100-1 150-1 125-1 Spullington 1504 1504 1504 1004 Over The Street 150-1 200-1 200-1 200-1 Pink 6th 2001 2501 2001 2001 Plante Species Dix 150-1 200-1. The

Don't Hatelia 150-1 250-1 200-1 200-1

C-Cost, 6 - William Hill, L-Lacholas, T-Tore

#### burn off ageing Viking Flagship RICHARD EDMONDSON catwalk. Last year, after he was fired, it seemed that the geldreports from Aintree ing's future would involve nothing more complicated than nibbling grass in a paddock. "We

The crown appeared to be hibbling grassin a paddock. "We wedged on Viking Flagship's turned him out in May last year head for so long but yesterday coronation here among Britain's sprint chasers. Martha's Son followed up his victory in the Queen Mother Champion Chase with victory in the Mumm Melling Chase to cement his place on the throne. Strong Promise was second and Viking Flagship third in typical game fashion on legs which are no longer the pistons of old.

richard Edmondson NAP: Suny Bay (Aintree 3.45) NB: Flyaway Blues (Beverley 4.15) with two, clean, straight, hard

tendons and two days later he had two bowed tendons," Tim Forster, the winning trainer, reported. "My vet came and Martha's Son himself has looked at him in the field and logs that do not belong on the shook his head."

A rejuvenated beast stood at the starting line yesterday, but then appeared intent on doing himself further damage, crashing through the first fence. From then the order among four of the nation's finest

throughout; Ask Tom popping away in front with his ears flicking as if he was picking up reception from several international frequencies. He dropped away in the straight, however, as Martha's Son swept through with an unusual acceleration for a National

### Hunt horse. "He's got two speeds," Forster said, "one idling and then he presses the the Flat this summer. fireburner and is off."

**Winter favourite out of Guineas** Bahhare, the winter favourite for the 2,000 Guineas, will miss lop's stable said: "The damage is minimal and the prognosis for the race after suffering a stress

fracture of the pelvis. The John Dunlop-trained colt, officially complete recover is excellent. He will require complete rest for rated Europe's second best juvenile last year, pulled up lame when working last month and was unable to resume his Clas-

at least six weeks and there is no possibility of him running before the middle of this season. Bookmakers have revised

ouritism with Ladbrokes from 5-1. Bahhare had been an 11-2 chance in Ladbrokes' betting, having drifted from 4-1.

2,000 Guiners (3 May) Latinokes: 3-1 Shemilin, 11-2 Revogus, 8-1 Indiscreet, 12-1 Enterperseur, 14-1 Cape Cross (from 20-1), Poleen, Putta, 16-1 others, Carak 5-1 Revogue, Stemilin, 7-1 Indiscreet, 12-1 En-

This was all proof that the pendulum never stops swinging in National Hunt racing. Martha's Son has provided moments of great exhilaration for Forster this season, but the Shropshire-based trainer has lost two great favourites in

Maamur and Coonawara along Major plans are already being entertained for two further winners yesterday in Sammartino and Cyborgo. The former took David Nicholson's tally at the meeting to five when winning the opener and must be considered a Champion Hurdle aspirant even if he goes back on Cyborgo was beaten in the

Gold Cup last month on ground much too fast for him, but remains an animal of great merjudged on his victory in the Mumm Mildmay Novices' Chase. "He's a real professional, does everything you ask and is very tough," was the as-sessment of Richard Dunwoody. He is now leading jockey at the meeting with four winners, while Pipe completed a double with Cadougold in the Oddbins Handicap Hurdle.

AINTREE 2.00: 1. SANMARTINO (R Durwoody) 8-11 fav; 2. Counteril 10-1; 3. Hurdante 20-1, 10 ran. 1½, 1½, (D Nicholson, Ren-ple Guiting), Weter £1.80; £1.30, £1.90, £5.30. DP: £5.10, CSP: £9.18, Tho: £76.80. NR: Ever Blessed, Merello,

2.35: 1. MARTHA'S SON (C Liewellyn) 5-2; 2. Strong Promise 9-4 tov; 3. Viking Flagship 11-4. 4 ran. 5, 3½. (Capt T Forster, Downton). You: £3.30. DF: £4.70. CSF: £7.38.

3.10: 1. CYBORGO (R Dunwood) 13-8 fev; 2. The Last Filing 11.2; 3. Judicious Captain 33-1. 7 ran, 3/4, dist. (M Pipe, Weilington). Tota: £2.30; £1.70, £2.30. DF: £5.70. CSF: £9.65.

3.45: 1. BLUE CHEEK (Mr R Thomson) 33-1, 14 ran. 15-8 fay Mr Boston (fell). 17, 1. U Mahon, Stratford-upon-Avon). Tota: £5.40; £1.90, £3.70, £16.50. DF: £51.00. CSF: £79.82. Trio: £1,284.10.

4.20: 1. FOREST IVORY (R Johnson) 11-2; 2. Private Peace 11-2; 3. Ment-more Towers 5-1, 12 ran, 10-3 fav Yeh-mi (4th), Shr-hd, 5. (D Nicholson, Temple Guiting). Tota: £7.50; £2.60, £1.70, £1.80, DF, £15.50, GSP, £33.72. This ings remained unaltered.

4.50: 1 CADOUGOLD (C F Swen) 8-1: 2. Sheriffmuir 10-1; 3. Ambinside 16-1. 12 rap. 4-1 fav Penny A Day (fell). 4, 4. (M Pipe, Wellington). Tota: £11.00; £2.80, £3.30, £4.90. DF: £52.70. CSF: £83.57. Tricast: £1,161.70. Trio: £419.70. NR: Well Armed.

5.20: 1. UNGUIDED MISSRE (R Dunwoody 7-2; 2. Cah On Tanget 10-3 fav; 3. Bertone 5-1. 7 ran. 1½, 3. (G Richards, Greystoke). Tota: £3.20; £2.10. £1.80. DF: £4.50. CSP: £13.81. Treast: £49.78. NR: General Pershing. Jackpot: £5,919.40.

cepot: £609.40. Quadpot: £68.90. Piace 6: £458.84. Piace 5: £305.32. LINGFIELD 2.20: 1. BANNINGHAM BLADE (Martin

Trio: £350.50 (part won)

4.05: 1. BARBASON (Candy Morris) 4-1; 2. Ertion 7-2 On fay; 3. Raidis 7-2 Co fay. 7 ran, 7-2 Co fay Statoyork (4th), 1/s, shifted. (G t. Moore, Brighton), Tota: £5.50; £2.60, £1.40, Df: £6,70, CSP: £17,44, Ti-cast: £48.91, NR: Sharp Shuffle.

4.40: 1. DAVOSKI (M Hills) 5-2; 2. Pro tacal 11.8 far; 3. Around Fore Allies 10-1, 7 ren. 174, nk. (B Hills, Lambourn). Yote: £2.60; £1.40, £2.10. DF: £2.60. CSF; £6.02.

5.10; 1. APOLLO RED (Candy Morris) 6-1 2. Robo Magic 6-1; 3. Intinach 25-1, 12 ran, 3-1 fav Purple Fling (6th), 2½, 3½, (6 L Moore, Brigmon), Tota: £5.00; £1.30, £4.00, £9.00, DP, £18.60, CSF; £46.69, Tricast: £829.76, Tro: £157.20. Placepot: £10,649,70 (pert worr pool of £5,835,49 carried forward to Aintree today).

ot: £27.00. Place 6: £6,091.73. Place 5: £162.95. SEDGEFIELD

2.10: 1. AMAZING SAIL (A.S.Smki) 8-1: 2. Nite Sprite 50-1; 3. Catter Lady 6-1. 15 ran, 3-1 for Mick The Yank, 9, 1½, (Miss M Miligen), Tote: £10,70; £4,00, £99,30, £2,70, DP: £264,90, CSP: £348,00, Tr-cast: £2,374,91, Trio: nol won.

2.45: 1. SILVER MINX (G Lee) 5-1; 2. Digrapord Beach 2-1 far; 3. Six Clerks 5-2. 13 ran. 3, 1½. (Mrs M Reveley). Total: £6.30; £2.00. £1.50, £2.00. DF. £10.30.

3.20: 1. TAPNICH (A Dobbry) 9-4 fav; 2. Whitegetes Wille 33-1; 3. Trioneth Hope 50-1, 11 ran. Nr, 8. (M W Easter-by), Tota: £2.80; £1.10, £4.20, £6.10. DP: £33.10. CSF: £62.28. Tho: £169.80

3.55: 1. RUSTIC AIR (W Dwan) 9-4: 2. The Touster 2-1 far, 3. Rene de Velte 7-2. 5 ran. 24; 7. U Fizgerald). Tote: £2.90; £1.30, £1.20. DP. £2.80. CSF. £6.79. NR:

4.30; 1. GREENMOUNT LAD (Mr P Conform) 10-11 fey; 2. La Maja 12-1; 3. Upwell 3-1. 5 ran. 6, 9. (J Comforth). Totas £1.80; £1.90, £1.40, DP: £11.50, CSP: £10.44. German Legend.

5.00: 1. GLENUGIE (N Bentley) 5-2 lav: 2. Skiddaw Semba 9-1; 3. Highland Way 5-1. 10 ran. 11/4, 10. (G Moore). Tota: 53.40; 51.40, 52.40, 52.10. DF. £15.20.

CSF: £27.03. Tricast: £105.94. Tno: £67.40. Placopot: £66.40. Quadpot: £10.50.

Place 5: £43.94. Place 5: £7.97.

973

0891 261 970

#### 2-20: 1. BANNINGHAM BLADE (Martin Dwyer) 33-1; 2. Loch Laird 33-1; 3. Flam-ing Briber 5-1. 7 ran. 11-8 tov Days of Gross (4th). Hd, hd. (K Arry, Radiest). Tota: £30.00; £3.20, £5.40. DP. £69.20. CSP. £628.19. NR: Nanoushica. 2.55: 1. BHTSAB (G Carter) 4-7 fav; 2. Maisbi 5-1; 3. Deep Water 13-2. 6 ran. ½, 4. (R Armstrong, Newmarket). Tota: £1.80; £1.10, £2.40. DP. £4.10. CSP: £3.68. Each very a quarter the outs, places 1, 2, 3, 4 sic preparation this week. their 2,000 Guineas odds with \* THE INDEPENDENT 3.00 CHAIR MAIDEN AUCTION FILLES STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 2YO 5F 8 233300 TYYRRAK (220 D) 8 Bugi 78 13 9 40408 THE BLACK DUBH (231) 3 Quint 48 12 10 234254 CHAMPAGNE WARRED (156) M Currecto 4 8 7 ... RACING SERVICES 23 CLASSY CLEO (7) (8F) R Henron 8 9... BOLDER MERGE M Channer 8 7..... 0891 261 + 2.00 Brodessa 2.30 Three Arch Bridge 3.00 Heav-LIVE COMMENTARIES PERILES enly Abstone 3.30 Boishoi 4.15 Brambles Way 3.30: 1. ANAK-RU (Angela Gallmore) 14-1; 2. Peronomasia 33-1; 3. Shanghai Lii 8-1. 10 ran. 15-8 fav Sweet Supposh (5m). 4, 14. (Mass Gay Kelleway, Whatcombe). Tota: £19.60; £5-40, £8.30, £1.10. OF: £154.50. CSF: £355.83. Theast: £3,553.44. FEITHE 7-4 Brokens, 11-4 Lovbycamillore, 8-8-1 Charley Crasseler, 10-1 Inchment, 14-1 Bodo 16-1 others 4.45 Globetrotter BLE 8 Bouch 6 2\_ GOING: Good to Firm. STALLS: Inside.

DEAW ADVANTAGE: High for 61 & 71.

Eight-hand, galloping course with very stiff 51.

Substitution (Itali – Scarborough the) 2m. ADMISSION: Club £13; Junior Club (16 to 21-year-olds) 58; Tattersulls 58; Siver Ring £3; Course Enclosure £3; Piente area £2 or £2 per car, plus £2 per cerupant. Concessions for OAPs. CAR PARK: Free.

2.00 VALENTINES SELLING STAKES (CLASS 6) £3,000 added 1m 4f

0134301 IACRICANE (569) J Berry 5 8 13 N Cardino 6 240-006 IDVETOINFILLIONS (16) N Tovier 5 8 13 Pat Edday 11 600430 PORTUE SUPPLE (267) M British 68 13 D Marrielle (7) 9 214030 RISKY ROSE (189) (2) R Holleshead 5 8 13

2.30 BECHER'S BROOK HANDICAP (CLASS E)

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lackeds (2.50); Heavenly Abstone

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lackeds (2.50); Heavenly Abstone

63.00). Winners in the LAST SEVEN DAYS: Three Arch

722213 MARIO WHITZER (10) (b) O North 598.

1008 West 219 miles by E Harmon from East Everleigh, Wilhahire.

83.001 sext 219 miles by E Harmon from East Everleigh, Wilhahire. 8 101301. POWER SAME (188) J Berry 4 6 4 ... X Darby 1 10 182000 SUPERFEIDE (188) DJ Ms M Readey 5 9 4 ... A Culture 11 434582 SULF SHAND (10) [D] E Akton 5 9 3 ... S Dromer 1 12 80-6430 PERLIDUS PLAISE (10) (D) Ms L Sabbs 6 8 3 ... K Fallon 1 3 .00 PLO 6 SERBERT (10) Ms L Sabbs 6 8 3 ... K Fallon 1 1 3 .00 PLO 6 SERBERT (10) Ms L Sabbs 6 8 3 ... K Fallon 1 

- 17 declared -BETTING: 5-1 Turve Arch Bridge, 6-1 Rancho Waltzer, 7-1 Gelf Shandi, 10-1 Gataline John, Paner Game, 14-1 Scenicris, 16-1 others

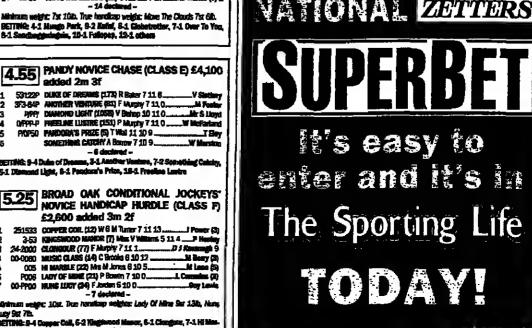
R. 2-1 Ellentrock, 4-1 Closey Cles., 5-1 Hemer go, 8-1 Skippool Creek, 10-1 Billz, 12-1 oth 3.30 EAST RIDING STAKES (CLASS C) £7,500 added 5f

45(1/40) - BDESHOI (168) (20) J Beny 5 9 2 - Bears ("Consulo 2 6 015-120 CREDAN GET (15) (D) N Utimoden 68 2...T & McLaughille 5 9 503505 - YA MALAK (184) (CD) D Nicholle 8 9 2 - Alex Breezes 3 11202 - ANOTHER DESIGNAT (828) G Levis 4 8 11...Paul Editory 1 NETTING: 13-6 Brano Erigo, 2-1 Spishol, 7-2 Westcourt Magic, 8-1 Ye Makel

4.15 MELLING ROAD HANDROAP (CLASS F)
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# (A (0) (B (0) 1.35 Pridewood Fuggle 2.10 Royal Saxon 2.40 Almapa 3.10 Ann's Ambition 4.25 Euro Singer 4.55

Duke Of Dreams 5.25 Copper Coil GOENG: Good to Prim.

Right-hand course with 300yd run-th.

Course south of city on A48. Hereford station Im. ADMISSEON:

Course north of city on A48. Hereford station Im. ADMISSEON:

Cob 5 13. Tationally 50; Course Enclosure 55. CAR PARK: Free.

BLINKESSED PIEST TIME: NOBE. WDONESS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Bord Singer (4:25) won 22. Transport on Saturday.

LONG-DESTANCE EXPRESS: Another Venture (4.56) & Closson (4.56) and 188 miles by F Marphy from West Witcon, N Yorks.

Sour (S.23) MINIST 10N MINIST BY PRINTING WORK WINDOW, N. KONGE.

1.35 Kilpeck Madden Hurdle (Class E)

53,000 added 2m 15

08 MUNICUL JEMES, 1239 K Wingson 5 11.6 \_\_\_\_\_ Promit (7)

20 PRESENCED PLOSEE 227.9 Price 7 12.5 \_\_\_\_ W Maddenhall

P MOLDSTAN (47) N PRICE 7 13.5 \_\_\_\_ W Maddenhall

00 ROLD THE MONREY (27) N 188 9 13.0 \_\_\_\_\_ W Manuals

4 declared -\_\_\_\_ W Manuals Dadde 17.4 Windows 2.7 may 7 ... W Manuals # 4-7 Princerood Popple, 11-4 Woldsman, 3-1 Bold Time Mankey.

2.10 CUSOP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) 54,100 added 3m if 110yds

1 363SR FFH AMERICA CO (0) C Man 12 11 10... Mage (2) 8

2 PR3413 NOOL SANDI (2) P Boven 11 11 10... M Manted B

3 0-FSAP WINDE WONDER (24) N Backpot 7 11 1 ... B bytes

- 3 declared -DETEND. 10-11 Whose Weater, 5-4 Royal Sanne, 19-1 Fifth Amer 2.40 BREDWARDINE NOVICE SELLING HURDLE

(CLASS G) £2,400 added 2m 1f P BOOT MCK (20) P Rich 8 11 0 M G 

3.10 GARWAY NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m £1,095 

Mr J Gobistein (7)
604 DATS FOR NOTES (201) Mrs R Kripe 7 11 6, Jar 6 Burton (7) PSP(Y SPACE MICHLY (124) Mis N Luy 3 11 9...... Nor P Cooley (7) 6-- 12 declared — 12 7-4 Delametre, 5-2 Arry Actifice, 9-4 Chest The Man, 10-1 The michier, 12-1 Michelles Crystal, Happy Paddy, 14-1 others 4.25 RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 2m 1f

10-0441 ELRO SRIESE (7) T Kedly 511 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_ B Ryen (5) 22133-P NORLE SOCIETY (260) K Wingows 9 11 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Power (7) 106224 DOMORESSFORDMER (16) (6) R Hodge 7 11 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Power (7) 12 \_\_\_\_\_ Power (7) 12 \_\_\_\_\_ Power (7) 1 4 322-013 VA (70) (1) (00) 0 Lloyd 9 30 11 Sophio Richell (3) 5 25-0300 JENES, BREF (120) G Baking 7 10 9 Jin E Stahlagion (7) V 01241P DESSOUNE (7) (0) 1 Langest 5 10 6 Jin F L Baker (7) F 510/430 COURAGEOUS ROBER (7) (20) P Hayword 6 10 4 M Marston (10060-20 TAP SHOES (100) R Baker 7 10 0 V Stationy - 6 declared Minimum weight: 10st. True handless weight: Tap Stoes Set Sh. BETTING: 7-4 Earn Singer, 7-2 Vs Uts., 6-1 Dominisestoriland galve, 8-1 Tap Shees, Countysous Valgat, 22-1 offices

5-1 Diamond Light, 6-1 Pandora's Prize, 16-1 Freeline Lautre 5.25 BROAD OAK CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 3m 2f 251533 COPPER COR. (12) W 6 M Tumer 7 11 13 3-53 (BMCSNICOD MANDER [7] Miss V Williams 5 11.4 \_\_\_ P Horley 4-2000 CLONGOUR (77) F Murphy 7 11.1 \_\_\_\_\_\_ D 5 Kentength 9 24-2000 CLONGOUR (77) F Murphy 7 11 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_ D 5 Km 00-0060 MUSIC CLASS (14) C Brooks 6 10 12 \_\_\_\_\_ M 1 005 HI MARBLE (22) Mrs M Jones 6 10 5...

PROPSO PANDORA'S PROZE (5) T Visit 11 10 9 .... SOMETHING CAUGHY A BONDY 7 10 9 ...

Marimum wedge: 10st. True handisap weights: Lady Of Hitte Set 13th, Nurs, DET MG: 9-4 Copper Call, 6-2 Vingineed Manue, 6-1 Clongate, 7-1 Hi Man-ble, 8-1 Massic Close, Lady Of Mine, 10-1 Hans Lucy 150th GRAND NATIONAL: From Antonin to Wylde Hide, a punters' guide to the runners aiming to break the circuit at Aintree

# The contenders' colours of distinction



Showed astonishing improvement

three years ago, winning a string of valuable races, but it took a move to Ireland with his trainer to rekindie the class of '94. Looked back to his best when winning by a distance at Punchestown last time, and has scored at Cheltenham off a 9lb higher handican mark than this. Has form on good ground, a leading lockey and a sure-footed approach to jumping which makes him the best bet in the race. Odds: 16-1

#### **BUCKBOARD BOUNCE**



To be ridden by Paul Carberry, whose father, Tommy, won on L'Escargot 22 years ago. A rider with a gift of conjuring improvement from almost every horse he sits on, Paul coaxed 100-1 shot Three Brownies into sixth last year. He faces a herrier task today as his mount was beaten 33 lengths at Carlisle seven days ago, so victory today would see enough form books on bornfires up and down Britain to accelerate glob-Odds: 25-1

#### DON'T LIGHT UP



of today's runners, since possession of a betting slip naming Venetia Williams's chaser is one of the few decent excuses left for pulling out a fag. The only runner in this afternoon's race yet to see a racecourse this season, and you suspect his odds would be even longer if he had had the chance to blot his copybook any further, Odds-on to come to grief somewhere on the first cir-Odds: 200-1

Not the most appropriately named

### **FULL OF OATS**



Rounded off last season with three wins, but this campaign has proved more difficult with the soft ground which bring his starnina into play all but non-existent. The extended trip should allow him to gain a measure of respectability, and his third behind Flyer's Nap two runs ago looks rather better following the latter's success at Cheltenham. Should finish about 14th, if the bad mistake he drops into every other round fails to Odds: 66-1

### **GO BALLISTIC**



Ran far beyond expectations when fourth in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, making him an apparent blot on the handicap here rather as Rough Quest, the 1996 Gold Cup runnerup, was 12 months ago. The presence of Master Oats at the head of the list has done him no favours. however, costing six of the 10lbs while he is generally a safe jumper, he tends to make at least one bad mistake per circuit. Odds: 10-1

### LORD GYLLENE



A brilliant jumper, which, strangely, is not always the ideal requirement at Aintree, where the drop on the landing side can catch out horses who jump too big. Among the favourites after three victories in six outings, but has not won away from Uttoxeter and appeared jaded when folding tamely behind Seven Towers at that track last month. Success would not be the greatest surprise, but he is very poor val-Odds: 10-1 ue at the price.

## MASTER OATS



Kim Bailey is running well behind Screaming Lord Sutch In popularity polls in many training centres thanks to his decision to declare the 1995 Gold Cup winner, thereby keeping the weights down and denting the chances of at least 20 other runners. Seventh when favourite two years ago, but form has deserted him and on his only outing this term he was pulled up. The ground is too fast while he is simply too slow.

## **NEW CO**



Santa Claus is supposed to leave things behind, but when he called on Mouse Morris's chaser last December, he seemed to remove his will to win. Things had been going well until than, with two wins at home in Ireland including one which netted £45,000, only for the second half of the year - and a hike in the weights - to usher in a series of disappointments. Would need to carry about two stone less to fig-Odds: 40-1

### PLASTIC SPACEAGE



Has lugged what must be the ugliest name on the turf around the gaff tracks for all of 14 years now, to the point where the punters deve a rest every bit as much as he does. Has not visited the winners' enclosure for four years, and even then it was at Newton Abbot. which berely counts. By far the oldest horse in the field, he has been ing his age this week and his participation will remain in doubt until this morning. Odds: 150-1

### STRAIGHT TALK



The mount of Joe Tizzard, who will become the youngest rider to set out in the race since Bruce Hobbs on Battleship in 1938. Hobbs re-turned victorious, but this partnership will do well to return together, since Straight Talk's last visit to the big fences saw him unseat his rider. Also against him: that the last election-time National was won by Party Politics. This time, as cynics will point out, there could be no less appropriate winner. Odds: 66-1

**GUIDE: GREG WOOD** 



#### CAMELOT KNIGHT



The Aintree course

1992 Party Politics (14-1) Docklands Express (15-2) Fourth

1995 Royal Atthete (40-1) 1994 Milmohoma (15-1)

1991 Seagram (12-1) 1990 Mr Frisk (16-1)

1986 West Tip (15-2) 1985 Last Suspect (50-1) 1984 Hallo Dandy (13-1)

1982 Grittar (7-1)

1978 Lucius (14-1

1977 Red Rum (9-1)

1981 Aldaniti (10-1)

1980 Berr Nevis (40-1) 1979 Rubstic (25-1)

1969 Little Polveir (28-1)

1987 Maori Venture (28-1)

1988 Rhyme W Reason (10-1)

Becher's Brook

Fences 16 and 22

1993 Vold race

Rough Quest (7-1) First

Master Oets (5-1) Seventh Moorcroft Boy (5-1) Third

Bonanza Boy (13-2) Fifth Brown Windsor (7-1) Fourth

Outon House (7-1) Fel

Sacred Path (17-2) Fell

West Tip (5-1) Fourth Mr Snugfit (13-2) Fourth

Greasepaint (9-1) Second

Great (19-1) Fig. Great (7-1) Fig. Great (7-1) Figs. Sparten Missale (8-1) Second Rubstic (8-1) Feb.

Rag Trade (8-1) Pulled up Andy Pandy (15-2) Fell

West Tip (13-2) Fet

Alverton (13-2) Fet

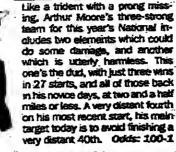
22

10

16

Open ditch

Named in honour of men who performed valiant deeds, which is a little unfortunate siven that his finest moment - worth all of £2,980 came in a Chepstow handicap four years ago. Returned one of his better efforts since when sixth, besten 30 lengths, in the Kim Muir at Cheltenham last month, but even a repeat performance would take him no further than the first two-dozen home. Can be passed over without a second thought. Odds: 100-1



#### CELTIC ABBEY



Hes just two wins under Rules to his credit, fewer than any other runnersh the field, and will not be playing catch-up today. Lost his prospective rider, amateur Dei Jones, on Tuesday when his apdication to ride in the race arrived at the Jockey Club too late, which prompts the conclusion that everything about him is slow. His jump ing is rather hit-and-miss and at Aintree, of course, one miss is one

1917

### **EVANGELICA**

be ignored.



Not seen out since Jenuary, perhaps to allow her to recover from the shock of being beaten by a 100-1 shot. That says all you need to know about her chance today, which is most conveniently viewed with a powerful megnifying glass. The only mare in the field, but the last one to win was Nickel Coin back in 1951 and that statistic at least could not be any safer today if it was locked in the vaults of the Bank of England.

Launched his season well after a spell troubled by injury with victory

in the Reheasel Chase at Chapeto

As it turned out, the rehearsal turned

As a numer out, the remeats a tender into an opening sight, and his two outlings since have othered tills as contragement that till present will be up in figure. Indicating tender will be up in figure. Indicating at Chapter on the average Chapter increases a Chapter more give in the ground. His retained prominent position in this heating is a musting. Ocides 22-1.

Hit the high point of his career in

a valuable novice event at Kemp-

ton five years ago, since when it

has been a steady freewheel down-

hill. Unsected his rider at the 10th

two years ago, since when his form

has declined further. Now very much

one of kie's also-rans, he was best-

en 65 lengths at Chepstow last month and was probably fortunate

to get that close. Others demand

to be considered, he demands to

Odds: 100-1

### GENERAL WOLFE



Pavourite when the weights were published in February, but did Intie to advertise his chance when taked off behind Belmont King at Chapstow lest month. Tim Forster, his trainer, is a notorious peesimiet, so the fact that he has discussed this comender's chance in almost up-best feshion - alled to the fact that he has saddled three National winners - is encouraging. Needed the weights to rise and may just miss a place in the frame. Odds: 16-1

### GRANGE BRAKE



Quirty, ney certifiable, beast who seems to apply himself only when the odds are stacked against him. He would, for instance, probably have finished third in the Hennas at Newbury last November - at odds of 100-1 - but for a last-fence mishap, and on that basis, he should. go pretty wall today. As trustworthy as a triple agent and is the sort of horse who would find a way to lose if he was 20 lengths clear rounding the Elbow. Odds: 100-1

### LO STREGONE



As rugged as a mountain blke, but with the searbox of a Chooper, Tom Tate's number goes from a walk to a steady gallop and does not get any faster. Soft ground is not, as some suppose, essential, but it does slow down his opponents. Third in the Hennessy at Newbury in November, but then dreadful behind Suny Bay at Haydock, and unlike 12 months ago, when he was a late absentee, he is now weighted up Odds: 14-1 to his best form.

### **MUGONI BEACH**



Does his winning on the summer circuit at tracks file Bangor and Newton Abbot, and is proof that the rules to ensure that National runners are of a reasonable standard are still too lax. Recorded his last win back in 1995 and provides a first outing in the race for Jamle Evans, a former champion over the sticks in his native Australia. it will not be long, however, before Evans sees Bondi beach as a far more appealing al-Odds: 100-1 temetive.

### **OVER THE STREAM**



Achieved the not inconsiderable feet on his latest outing of being beaten by 89 lengths - and by six other very limited opponents - in a minor event at Newcastle, which makes him a short price to be the last horse home. Beaten even further on his only other run this season, though he has got round safely on his two previous excursions here and can be expected to do so again today. Or, if not today, then some time tornorrow. Odds: 200-1

### SMITH'S BAND



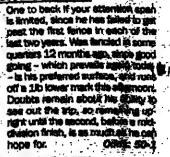
Both his trainer and lockey, Jenny Pitman and Richard Dunwoody. have won the National twice before, which is something no other runner can claim, but this one is unlikely to improve either record. Pulled up on his only outling this seeson, and while snippets of form hold out hopes of a place - when narrow runner-up at Haydock last yeer. for instance - it looks as if we will be spared the "Queen of Aintree" routine this time.

### **VALIANT WARRIOR**

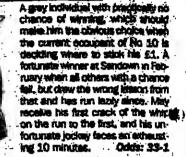


Yet another of the redoubtable extras whose sole task is to make the field look respectable. An hone hard-working creature who goes to post relying on mishaps to others and a dozen of them at that - if he is to make it into the first six. Third to the useful Senor El Betrutti at Newbury last time and has form on a fast surface, but could only be flying higher today if he had checked in for the 3pm Concorde to New York.

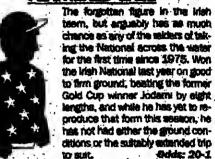
#### BISHOPS HALL

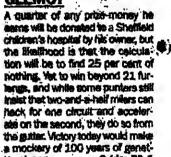


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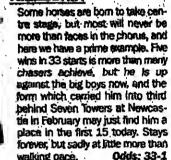


#### FEATHERED GALE





### KILLESHIN

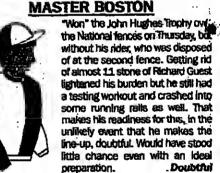


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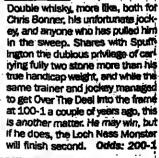


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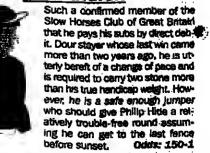


A former top novice who appears to have lost his way, trained by Jenny Pitman and ridden by Jason Titley. If the description sounds familiar, it is because it tallies exactiv with that carried into the race by Royal Athlete, the winner at 40-1 two years ago, and that will guar antee him a measure of support. The trail of coincidence will surely go cold just before four o'clock since he has showed little in four outings this season. Odds: 16-1

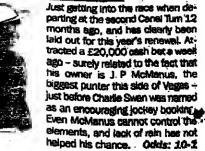
# PINK GIN



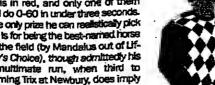
# **SPUFFINGTON**



### WYLDE HIDE



**GRAPHICS: ROBERT BROOKS** 



Odds: 50-1

Duchess of Westminster, but then you can get both Metros and Ferraris in red, and only one of them will do 0-60 in under three seconds. The only prize he can reelistically pick up is for being the best-named horse in the field (by Mandalus out of Liffey's Choice), though admittedly his Turning Trix at Newbury, does imply that he will do himself a small mea-Sure of justice. Odds: 50-1

\* water

A potential National winner needs

a little luck, but he used up his share

for the year - for the decade, in fact

- when finishing second to Dextra

Dove at Sandown back in February.

Decent opponents like Coome Hill.

Avro Anson and Go Baillstic came

to grief that day, and a more reli-

able measure of his ability is the dis-

tant ninth to Terao posted at

Cheftenham last time. What's more,

he wouldn't stay if he had a 10-fur-

Will carry the Aride colours of Anne,

16 28

NORTHERN HIDE

RIVER MANDATE

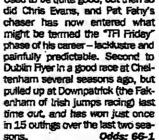
# SUNY BAY



Charile Brooks, his trainer, says he would be standing for the Referandum Party were it not for the demands of his job, but thankfully for supporters of this grey, his devotion to lost causes remains political rather than professional. Cantered home in the Greenalis' Trial and is still improving, so could be the handicap blot, but his dismai run when breaking a blood vessel last year is hard to dismiss, especially at these

#### NUAFFE Used to be quite good, but then so

50



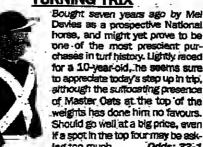
30-

# SCRIBBLER



In the long list of dreadful jumpers, somewhere between the one you thought was cool when you were 14 and the one you got last Christmas, sits this chaser, an unreliable convevance at the best of times, but all the more so around what is still one of the most formidable circuits in the world. Bookmakers like to compile five-horse groups and of-fer odds on all five completing. Expect this one to figure prominently in most of them. Odds: 100-1

### **TURNING TRIX**



horse, and might yet prove to be one of the most prescient pur-chases in turf history. Lightly reced for a 10-year-old, he seems sure to appreciate today's step up in trip, aithough the suffocating presence of Master Oats at the top of the weights has done him no favours. Should go well at a big price, even if a spot in the top four may be asking too much.

# Side with Suny to breach the grey divide

RICHARD EDMONDSON Racing Correspondent

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Vital manoeuvres will take

place in the nation's households this morning when porcelain pigs are smashed and coins retrieved from under the sofa cushions. The 150th Grand National is such an open contest that bookmakers are unable to nominate a clear favourite and will be guided by the the loose change that will be shovelled across shop counters.

"It's impossible to say who will head the market this year," Mike Dillon, the Ladbrokes spokesman, said yesterday. "For once the race will be shaped not by professionals' money but by bets going on from the gener al public. It could be that the favourite will start at 10-1." The annual conundrum of

finding the first survivor in this gruelling assignment is made no easier by the fact that most of the form horses have shown their most persuasive displays on softish ground. Despite spluttering showers on Merseyside yesterday the going is ex-

pected to be good.

Lord Gyllene, at least, has won on terrain of that description. The nine-year-old has been favourite for much of the build-up largely due to his vic-tory in the Midlands National Trial in February.

If you ignore the gelding's successes in his native New Zealand, Uttoxeter is the only place he has won. The men behind Lord Gyllene are particularly worried about the effect these frightening obstacles will have on their horse. "I hope he goes at it quietly," Steve Brookshaw, his trainer, said. "I would be happy if be got close to one early on and learned something. But he's a brainy horse, so I'm hopeful he'll get round." He may do, but the hats are likely to have stopped rolling on the ground by the time he crosses the line.

Wylde Hide, too, was expected to complete 12 months ago until the Canal Turn removed those thoughts. The Irish horse has been backed quite monstrously, with one single betting-shop punter placing wagers that have cost him the thick end of £7,000 in tax. He could have placed the bets on course and had a good day out (helicopter, private box, fine champagnes, private hospital care) oo the tax saved. Wylde Hide would be a first

ANTREE

1.45 Secret Spring 2.20 Celibate 2.55 Make A Stand HYPERION

GOING: Good.

Two left-hand courses. Grand National circuit is 2m2f and triangular with a con-in of

III Two icti-hand courses. Grand National circuit is Zinizi and trianguler with a rou-in of almost 500yds. Minster spuce and fir fences, several with a steep drop on the landing side. Midning vircuit is Imizi round with conventional part? fences.

III Course is north-cast of city, one rule from the M57 on the A59. Afaires station (served by Liverpool, Lime St) adjoint course. ADMESSION: Compt Lawn S29; Tattessalls S16 (child under 16 S4). Other exclosures acid out. CAR.

PARE: County 513; Central 53.

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH EUNNERS: D Michobour - 13 winners from 63 remons gives a success ratio of 20.0% and a profit to 51 level stake of £6.22; N Twiston-Berdon - 9 winners, 52 crunets, 17.3%, 53.63; M Pipe - 9 winners, 74 runners, 12.2%, +28.00; E C BaBey - 7 winners, 27 runners, 25.9%, 55.65.

ELEADING JOCKETE: N Williamson - 8 winners, 48 ridge, 18.8%, 55.68; A D. 15.5%

Balley - 7 winners, 27 rumers, 25.9%, \$5.05.

ELEADING JOCKETS: N Williamon - 8 winners, 48 rides, 18.8%, \$5.58; & Debbia - ; winners, 25 rides, 28%, \$19.50; & P. McCoy - 7 winners, 28 rides, 25%, \$19.30; & Danwoody - 7 winners, 58 rides, 25%, \$19.30; & Danwoody - 7 winners, 58 rides, 25%, \$19.30; & BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Analah (1.45), River Handane (3.45) (visored).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Colonel in Chief (4.35) won at Crisine in Sturdey, Maxileo (5.15) wan at Newton Abbot on Monday, Le Denstan (4.35) won at Crisine on Saturday. Maxileo (5.15) wan at Newton Abbot on Saturday.

LONG-DETANCE EUNNERS (within Britain): Frozen Sea (1.45) seat 280 miles by G. LONG-DETANCE EUNNERS (within Britain): Frozen Sea (1.45) seat 280 miles by G. Erright from Lewes, E. Suscer, Spatifington (3.45) seat 250 miles by G. Gifford from Photon, W. Sussex: Secret Spating (1.45) seat 345 miles by P. Hodger from Eastergate, W. Sussex.

2.20 MARTELL RED RUM CHASE (LANTED HANDICAP) & (CLASS A) (Grade 2) £40,000 accided 2m

African weight 10st 70. The random weights Down the Fed 10st 50.

African weight 10st 70. The random weights Down the Fed 10st 50.

SETTingle 4-2 Calibrate, 9-2 Enotes, 5-1 New Work Walt, 13-2 Arctic Misseums, 6-1

13-1 Reads, 12-1 New Rese, 14-1 Misseum (Mar. 13-2 Arctic Misseum), 15-1 Down The Fed 13-1 Reads, 12-1 New Rese, 14-1 New Rese, 14-2 Arctic Deviced 10 cm 1990s Arctic Housean 8 11 0 C Lievellyn 13-2 (N Vestion-Deviced 10 cm 1990s Arctic Housean 8 11 0 C Lievellyn 13-2 (N Vestion-Deviced 10 cm 1990s)

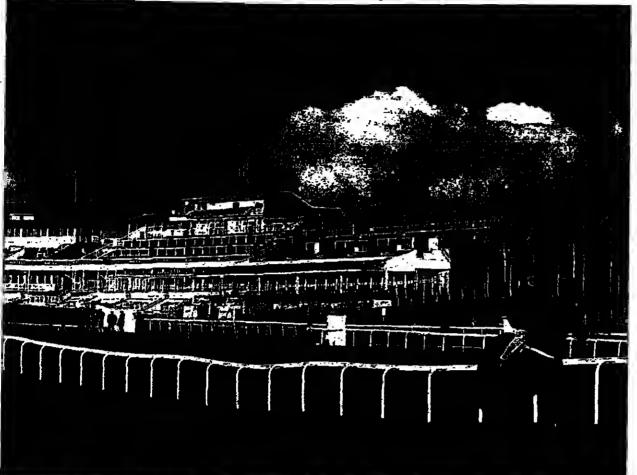
| 121F-U2 | (CLASS A) (Grade 2) £40,000 midded 2m | 121F-U2 | ARCINC FURSHAM (42) (20) 6/m R E Hambrol N Tutson-Davis 9 12 0 ... C Linewight 2 373.126 LORD DORCET (24) (D) (Lotal Hogd) | Cherlon 7 11 4 ... | Johnson 3 274-434 TRAE WORT WART (23) (20) (Od Besix Purtnershipl R Philips 8 11 4 ... | R Dames of 1 111123 | CELERATE (25) (D) (Starthed Bedge Purtnershipl C Narm 8 11 3 ... | R Dames of 1 200 (R PR) (27) (D) (DA Lotrarol M Pips 5 12 2 ... | C Nambe B 1 27131 | MARSER (2007) (27) (D) (Des R M Hold ) (reg 11 10 13 ... | C Nambe B 1 27131 | MARSER (2007) (27) (D) (Des R M Hold ) (reg 11 10 13 ... | C Nambe B 1 27132 | MARSER (2007) (27) (D) (Des R M Hold ) (Nov 10 10 12 ... | A Dokahi 1 125716 | POLISCAL TOWNER (25) (D) (Set R S Holm R Nova 10 10 12 ... | A Dokahi 9 75-4124 | MEE WEEK (80) (D) (Set R Gobard G Monre 8 10 10 ... | M Verillement 1 121343 | DOWN) THE FELL (80) (C) (Min S Subjected - 10 date of 10 7 ... | M Verillement 1 10 date of 10 12 ... | M Verillement 1 10 date of 10 12 ... | M Verillement 1 10 date of 10 12 ... | M Verillement 1 10 date of 10 12 ... | M Verillement 1 10 date of 10 12 ... | M Verillement 1 10 date of 10 12 ... | M Verillement 1 10 date of 10 12 ... | M Verillement 1 10 date of 10 12 ... | M Verillement 1 10 date of 10 12 ... | M Verillement 1 10 date of 10 12 ... | M Verillement 1 10 date of 10 12 ... | M Verillement 1 10 date of 10 12 ... | M Verillement 1 10 12 ... |

B. S. Land Descel.

1.45 CORDON BLEU HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) 125,000 added 2m 110yds

3.45 AVRO ANSON (nap) 4.35 Linton Rocks (nb)

5.15 Zaffaran Run



The stands that wait to serve: Aintree is almost deserted at dawn yesterday as a handful of early arrivals warm up for Grand National day action by taking to the track for a workout

in skith. Provided there is no heavy rels, conditions should be ideal for Time Worlt Wait to-day and, with Down The Pull Budy to cut out the turning, he should have the race run to suit bire. Lard Dorcet was lest of six to Marthe's Son in the Champion Chase, basen 17

4.35 CHIVAS REGAL AMATEUR RIDERS NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 added 2m 4f

- 13 decine#6 
Athieum weight: 10xt 50. The hardrap weights Herbeits Flore Decicing Set 13b, Goeic Sibe Set 3b.

A Duranne Set 20. After The Rev. Set 13.

BETTING: 5-1 Coldonosille, 13-2 Currorin, 6-1 Indian Jookey, Union Rocks, 15-2 Colone in Color,
9-1 Sando Sine, 10-1 Decigherg, 13-1 Dream Web, Mahada, Nobelin Phret, 15-1 witness
1998: Rocket Rev. (4) 8 10 0 P Herbey 10-1 (Mass Lindwin V Ressell) 11 tan

CARLIC BUILE may be 1.6th out of the handloop, but he is being in form, as is his stable. Sue Smith's seven-year-old speet Golden Helto in declate fastion at Market Resen last month and ran out a very stay winner of a five-runner novice handloop at the same course 1.0 days later, He would have been a convenient winner at Verbardy on Monday sampt, for failing at the lest. Good amoteur Sesmus Duzeck has the ride. Genevale is enother in orack-

10 days tater. He would have been a constituting winner at Westerdy on Monday satest, for falling sit the lest. Good arristur. Sections Duteck has the ride. Garawin is another in oracle ing form, having with his but four, but he is 3to higher than when rearristy boating Frezzi telend at Asoot test time, when there were a big gap to the third. Goldenwell's the abortises should be the less than the safings, hearing been a nock asoond to Tellineary in a weakble mare? nowce thandcap at Ummater, but also should go well again. Front-numbring hadian Jockey, unbesten in three runs over fences, gives well on the ground and must be considered even if the is much his stiffest task task yet. Coloneal in Chief, successful at Cartiels lest week, has it to do under top weight on ground Bisely to ride faster than he lives. Dream Hade's Wincardon Gefect it dods on text time was a desoporatment and he jumping tands to left min down. Live has flocks is hitresting, healing impressed when making a winning debut over fences at Newbury (3m) recently. He jumped well and is on a good meth compared with his hurdess form. Stephen Swiers will ride him well.

Selection: GAELIC BLIE

5.15 MARTEL CHAMPION STANDARD NH FLAT RACE (CLASS A)

(Grade 2) £15,000 added 2m 110yds 10-11 LOND LAND (20) (D) (A Sharett & Mr.) Farter? Mrs M Family 5 11 12 \_\_ 21 NOST MINER (25) (D) (Mrs 8 ) Shart () Nicholson 5 11 12 \_\_ 21 NIC PERIOS (87) (D) (R A H Perios) P Daton 5 11 8 \_\_\_

50. EASINY MEETE (20) (9) GR R Cochurch S Meetinered 5.11 8.

1. 60 PARTINE (159) (0) (Record Partinering) Mee S S S rein 5.11 8.

1. 60 PARTINE (159) (0) (Record Partinering) Mee S S S rein 5.11 8.

1. MANDORNA STERRING (179) (0) (G. K Record) A Bellay 5.11 7.

2. CARLINGOROUS TYRE (25) (Design Packag) 1 Carr 5.11 4.

3. CHARGER (150) (00) (22) (Resign) G Bellay 5.11 4.

2. ROMANNA (162) (163) (Packag) G Bellay 5.11 4.

2. ROMANNA (162) (163) (Packag) G Bellay 5.11 4.

3. CHARGER (15) (0) (Bellay D Bellay (15) (163)

METTRINE S-1 Mountain Storm, 11-2 Zefferen Rus, 9-1 Meiny Miner, 12-2 Lord Lumb, 9-1 The Light-mains 310-1 die Marke, Maydoy Lumma, Hermania, 12-1 Gig Pieria, Eneby Wes, 14-1 others 1880; Nov. Dat, 4-10-12 L Appel 15-2 () Pearch 15 mm

514 - CLUSTON (SE) (D) (C Harmond) Mrs A Person 611 8... 51 - Electr made (30) (D) (G R Ouchard) S Kepteral 511 8

19-1 Minney, 37-1 Double Symphony 1900: Unitentic 0rd 6 11 7 C F Sean 100-30 (A O'Blen) & san

Irish winner since L'Escargot in 1975, and by oeat connection year when survival was the sole that horse was trained by Dan Moore, father of today's trainer, Arthur. However, Wylde Hide was also well supported last year and it may be that once again he will get left behind when the accelerators go down

and make a damaging error.

Another Irish-based beast with a chance is Antonin, who ran right away from a capable field at Punchestown last time.

priority, finishing eighth. A similar position appears likely on ground he will not appreciate.
Two of the classiest horses

who can also ally good form to their capabilities are Go Ballistic and Avro Anson. There are oping queries about the pair, but, if they do not shrivel under the challenge, a place in the frame beckons. Nahthen Ladalso has a bit of calibre about.

GRAND	NA	TIO	NAL		10.	YEA	RIT	ALE		
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New J - loke-flavouring: V - void race

him and has an added impetus in that he will be disappointing Jenny Pitman if he does not perform close to peak capacity.

Lo Stregone is another who has been a short price for some months now, though a caveat is that he ran as if he had a corkscrew tail and lived in a sty last time out behind Suny Bay. That winner is trained by Charlie Brooks, the Eton-

educated Swampy who recently threatened to climb up a tree to stall the proposed Newbury by-pass. There is leg trouble in the Brooks camp, but that belongs to the trainer himself, who is minus the cruciate ligaments in one knee. Suny Bay's problem is that he is prone to breaking blood vessels, though it is believed he has been helped over this debilitation by being paddock for much of each day.

Suny Bay's Haydock victory means he is in line for a record £280,000 pick-up for connec-

tions (which includes a bonus) should he prevail. The eightyear-old is another who is said to prefer sloppy going, though it must be considered that his best performance came last

time out on good ground. Of the many facts that are resurrected around Grand National time, one of the most grating seems to be that Nicolaus Silver was the last grey to triumph in 1961. It now appears that fact is finally to be expunged from the record book by SUNY BAY (nap 3.45).

However, most important of all to consider is the Latin inscription that is carried on the side of the Uplands horsebox-"dum spiro spero" - Brooks's prep school motto, which translates to "while I breathe I hope". At the end of this afthe celebrated mélée of the Foinavon Grand National, the greatest wish will be that all 39 combatants are still hoping.

3.45 MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS A) £250,000 added 4m 4f Penalty value £178,146 .... F Title ... G Bradle 15-2605 FEATHERED GALE (24) (M O'Comor) A L T Moore (iri) 10 10 3 ... 2125-3U AFRO ANSON (63) (The Mirror Punters Club) M Camacho 9 10 2. .R Johnson ..C F Swa .C O'Dwye D J Case ...P Holles B Powel ... Cullety 3P2-045 MUGON BEACH (43) (BF) (Jim Ennis) M Pipe 12 10 0....... 1/223-36 PLASTIC SPACEAGE (48) (Graham Datzlei) J Old 14 10 0... 1340-60 OVER THE STREAM (19) (J D Gordon & E C Gordon) Miss K Milligan 11 10 0 .Mr R Thornton B

—40 declared —
Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Lord Gyllene 9st 13lb, Wylde Hide 9st 13lb, Dextra Dove 9st 13lb, Antonin 9st 13lb, Smith's Band 9st 10lb, New Co 9st 9tb, Go Ballistic 9st 8lb, General Wolfe 9st 8lb Glemot 9st 7lb, Vellant Werfor 9st 6lb, Killeshin 9st 3lb, Master Boston 9st 3lb, Straight Talk 9st 2lb, Nurelfe 9st 2lb, Northern Hide 9st, Tirming Tite 8st 12lb, River Mandate 9st 12lb, Grange Brake 8st 12lb, Evangelica 8st 10lb, Back Bar 8st 10lb, Dakyns Boy 8st 9lb, Scribbler 8st 8lb, Cettic Abbey 8st 7lb, Full Of Oats, 8st 6lb, Camelot Knight 8st 6lb, Mugoni Beach 8st 4lb, Plastic Spaceage 8st 2lb, Over The Stream 8st 2lb, Don't Light Up 8st 2lb, Pink Gin 8st, Spuffington 8st.

BETTING: 9-1 Surry Bay, 10-1 Avro Anson, Go Ballistic, Lord Gytlene, Wylde Hide, 12-1 Smith's Bend, 14-1 Lo Stregone, 16-1 Antonin, General Wolfe, Nahthen Lad, 20-1 Feathered Gale, 22-1 Belmont King, 25-1 Buckboard Bounce, Master Oats, 33-1 Dextra Dove, Killeshin, Turning Trix, 40-1 New Co, 50-1 Bishops Hall, Evangelica, Glernot, River Mandate, Northern Hide, Vallant Warrior, 66-1 Full Of Oats, Nasffe, Straight Talk, 100-1 Back Bar, Camelot Knight, Celtic Abbey, Dakyns Boy, Grange Brake, Mugoni Beach, Scribbiar, 150-1 Plastic Spaceage, SputTington, 200-1 Don't Light Up, Over The Stream, Pink Gin

1998: Rough Quest 10 10 7 M A Fitzgerald 7-1 (T Casey) 27 ran

GO BALLISTIC, who ran the race of his life (so far) when staying on to finish 15½ lengths fourth to Mr Mul-ligan in the Cheltenham Gold Cup (3m2f110yds, good) last time out, is well handicapped on that form, stays well, goes on this ground and, in Mick Fiogerald, who won last year on Rough Quest, has a jockey who can hunt him round the back in the early stages and give him every chance to adapt to these unique fences. Sumy Bay, the 19 lengths winner of Greenalls National Trial at Haydock (3m4f, good) on his latest outing – with Lo Stragone a disappointing 49 lengths last of five – is also well handicapped. But he is best on soft ground and It could be a mistake to make light of his history of injury problems. Smittir's Band, second to Scotton Be in the Peter Marsh Chase at Haydock (3m, good to soft) last year, was not given a hard time when pulled up at Newbury (3m, good to soft) on his reappearance and is another who could be leniently treated. Awro An-son unseated his rider last time but showed smart form when third to Jodami and Unguided Missile in the Peter Marsh Chase at Haydock (3m, good to firm) on his seasonal debut and, although inexperienced over fences, stays well and will be suited by the ground. Lord Gyllege has shown improved form since being stepped up to marsthon distances. However, his well-beaten seven lengths second to Seven Towers in the Midfands National at Uttoweter (4m2f, good) last time out suggests he is not that well handicapped. Moreover, he is has only won on softish ground. Wylde Hilde was making headway when he unseated his rider at the seventh last fence (Canal Turn second time round) in last year's National (4m4f, good). He won at Leopardstown (2m5f, soft) by 41/2 lengths on his latest start, but is another whose best form is a soft surface. Automin won easily at Punichestown (3m2f, heavy) in February and looks well handicapped on that. He stays well but is enother who may be best on soft ground. Natther Lad, disappointing this season, pulled up in the Gold Cup at Chelwho may be best on sort ground. Nathber Lad, disappointing this season, pulled up in the Gold Cup at Chettenham (3m2f110yds, good) on his latest start and is hard to fancy, 6 remark which applies to Bluckboard. Bounce, only eighth in a hurdle race at Carlisle lest Saturday. General Wolfe, runner-up in last year's Scottish National at Ayr (4m), won at Haydock (3m, good to soft) on his return but was then a poor fourth to Giventime at Chepstow (3m2f110yds, soft). Belmont King won the Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow (3m, good to soft) in good style lest autumn. He finished seven lengths second to Giventime at Chepstow (3m2f110yds, soft) last time but may find the ground against him. Master Oats, who won the 1995 Gold Cup at Chelterham (3m2f110yds, soft) and was second to Imperial Call in the Hennessy Gold Cup at Leopardstown (3m, soft) last year, was pulled up on his only run this season behind Antionia at Punchestown and may be past his best. Faathened Gale stars well likes this smood and was a creditable short-head second to Royal Mount. his best. Feathered Gale stays well, likes this ground and was a creditable short-head second to Royal Mount-browne at Leopardstown (2m5f, good to soft) on his seasonal debut. He appeals as the best outsider. Bishops Hall has departed at the first fence in the last two Nationals but, if he gets his jumping together, could also figure prominently at 6 big price. Killeshin won the 1996 Elder Chase at Newcastle (4m1f), but was 12 lengths behind Lord Gydene (1.11b better off now) at Littoxeter (4m2f) last time. Turning Trix, who won at Newcastle (3m, good to firm) in November and Newbury (3m, good to soft) last time out, beating Sister Stephanie by a head, has a harsh task with 16th more than his true handleap weight.

Selection: GO BALLISTIC

# aux thin. Land Doroet was lest of six to Martin's Son in the Champion Chee, besten 17 lengths, and will appealable the salmen to hardings company. He has the bearing of Time Wort's Walt and Political Tower on Donoissier running in January, but a botter show is expected from Time Wort's West today. Missier Giddy, who unsested in the Grand Armail, essibly beet Lord Doroet at Sandown in February but would prefer more cut underboot. That could also prove a problem for Explants were a good third to Or Royal in the Arife at Chatteriam and should have the gound in his favour again. He and Jackib are closely mitched on curreing at Chatteriams back in October. Were River disoppointed in bour to Frickley at Donoiseur lest time, but he won off today's sating at Nalvo in January Acrd Dorost thirty and cannot be written off. 255 MARTELL ARTREE HARDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 1) 143-230 BMREP (25) (C) (P) (Main J Ryant R Methurs 7 11.7 M A Fits 11.1111 LARGE ACTION (25) (D) (RF) (C) 7 Standard Bowel D Sherwood 9 11.7 J Go Sillin Marke A Starto (25) (D) (RF) (C) 7 Standard Bowel D Sherwood 9 11.7 C W AND A Standard (25) (G) (Lorse, Bennock and Text Permandrial M Pape 7 11.7 II Dum 12113 SPACE INDICATE (25) (G) Elsen Quelly Mas J Harrigger (G) 6 11.7 II Dum 12113 SPACE INDICATE (25) (G) Elsen Quelly Mas J Harrigger (G) 6 11.7 C F F32-11P DUMARDE (23) (C) (A) (A) Find A D'Elsen (C) F1 1.7 C F F32-11P DUMARDE (27) (D) (A) F1 1.7 C F1 1.7 ETTING: 11-8 Make A Stand, 5-2 Large Action, 11-2 Space Trucker, 7-1 Undesch., 10-1 Pridentl., FORM SIZES WASE, A STAND despinated the Champion Huntle Seid and this course is for more conductive to a prore-nance: it may be that this is one race too far for Alartin Pipe's six-year-old, but there was no sign of him stopping at Chaltenham and the extra distance here is unfilled you be allowed as much leavely as at Chaltenham, he will still be very difficult to pag back. Space Tracker got closest to Make A Stand of fooley's rivels, this ring under at kinglish thick, with Priderest sortion. Street Stand of fooley's rivels, this ring under at weights thick, with Priderest sortion. Street I sugge Action, throught in the Champion Huntle straing words as spaceable, two-main; but Large Action, through in the Champion Huntle straing won to Fain/house and Chaltenham should from the stants, will be west suited by this try. Third to Denoil in the 1995 running of this race, he should improve on that today. Unabaseds best Strong Promise a nock in this race last year but has not expected that sure of the year.





AINTREE

1.45: SECRET SPRING, runner up to yesterday's winter San martino at Kempton in December, went on to win well at the Surrey track in January. This, too, is a tight. But track and he makes his handicap debut with what seems a lement weight. Clifton Best appeals at long odds. Near the foot of the handicap, Rosencraniz and Pocestal are danger

2.20; CELIBATE ran with great credit to be third in the Arkle Trophy at Cheltenham, finishing six lengths behind the second, Squire Silk, successful here on Thursday. Today's opposition is less tone and Richard Dunwoody takes the reins on this sound jumper.

2.55: Nothing got near MAKE A and tearsway factics will be entirely suited to this track. Space Trucker, six lengths behind the se-lection at Cheltenham, can be relled moon to deliver a late thrus 3.45: AVRO ANSON was a top

staying hurdler who has had only six runs over fences. Has taken well to the larger obstacles, how ever, loves fast ground, is nicely in with 10st 2h and has class. Suny Bay, similarly well weighted, must be feared. If this grey handles this ground - he is best in the mud he will be staying on best of all. General Wolfe and Smith's Band must carry more than their true handican rating but both have the

NT THE

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10/1 Wylde Hide 28/1 Killeshin 66/1 Full of Oats 11/1 Lo Stregone 33/1 Buckhoard B. 12/1 Smith's Band 40/1 Dextra Dove 14/1 Antonin 40/1 Evangelica

14/1 General Wolfe 40/1 New Co 16/1 Nahthen Lad 40/1 Northern Hide 190/1 Mugori Beach

66/1 Glemot 100/1 Back Bar

66/1 Straight Talk 200/1 Don't Light Up 66/1 Valiant Warrior 200/1 Over The Stream

200/1 Plastic Spaceage \*Master Boston \*Trainer states non-runner Each Way one-quarter the odds a place 1,2,3,4.

to the event of any withdrawal(s) SP place terms and Tartursalis rule 4(c) may apply. These prices; may have changed since this newspaper was printed.

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158/1 Soutfination

Ladbrokes

For the National, Ladbrokes are favourite.

250th Actic sources 8 11 0 C Liewellyn 13-2 pt Twiston-Davies 10 cm
posses cannot share when besting Times work?
Anothis filteratum as 8th higher and conying a stone more than when besting Times work?
WANT four lengths in this more lest year, when Positical Times, a 50-1 shor, was a staying on fourth, some ak lengths farther besti. Arche therems, three lengths second to easy winner vising Pageline at Newbury in February, had to be withdrawn before the start of the new Young Pageline at Chelenham having broken a blood vessel. He meets times work what on 6th works forms compared with lest season and the selection would have run him much on 6th works forms compared with lest season and the selection would have run him much on 6th works from the bundlered at the lest. Time Wort Wart, a course and distance where it keeps the not blundered at the lest. Time Wort Wart, a course and distance where it was y 2004, has had just these runs this term, number the best race fast time to be fourth to years from the court and Annua, finishing three and a half lengths behind number of these time in Chelenham's Gund Annua, finishing three and a half lengths behind number of the season whom he meets as better, and with Positical Tower three lengths behind



DAVIS CUP: Briton belies lack of experience and place in world rankings to keep home hopes alive

# Richardson rallies for Britain

JOHN ROBERTS

reports from Crystal Palace

In one of the most compelling Davis Cup debuts imaginable, Andrew Richardson kept Britain's hopes of a return to the World Group alive yesterday by defeating Byron Black, Zimbab-we's No 1, 3-6, 6-4, 1-6, 6-4, 6-4

Richardson, a towering 23coinshire, refused to give ground in a three-hour duel, levelling the tie 1-1. His team-mate, Jamie Delgado, had earlier lost in four sets to Black's younger brother,

The best players in the house were sitting in the crowd - Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, nursing injuries and supporting their Davis Cup deputies - and before the end of the afternoon they were roaning as loudly as the the most vociferous member of the long-suffering BATS (British Association of Tennis Supporters).

Richardson, 6ft 7in but dwarfed by his opponent in terms of experience and ranking Black, at No 46, is 220 places higher - helped cut down on the by producing 22 aces.

Even more impressive, how ever, was the heart Richardson showed in refusing to be cowed by his opponent's superior play m the opening set. And when it came to a test of nerve in the final set, the Briton again showed courage. First to break, for 4-2, he did not allow his confidence to be shaken when Black broke back and then drew level at 4-4.

It was Black, serving to stay in the match at 4-5, who was the one to crack, if only because of his opponent's relentless pursuit of the points. The Zimbabwean managed to save two match points, but had no response to Richardson's grand finale of two spectacular forehand drives down the line.

"I was told the Davis Cup was a unique experience, and it definitely was," an elated Richardson told reporters who had expected to be quoting Byron. Delgado, Britain's No 1 for the weekend, promised much before losing the opening rubber against Wayne Black, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3. The 20-year-old from Warwickshire began smartly but then hit 13 double-faults, the majority on come into it," he said. "I was just struggling with my serve."



Andrew Richardson hits a forehand during his victory over Byron Black at Crystal Palace yesterday

touch of a seasoned campaigner rather than an understudy about to start his first contest over the best of five sets. He broke in the opening game, af-ter Black had double-faulted for 0-40, then swept into a 4-0 lead and had a break point for 5-0. Although Black held serve on

that occasion, and again in the crucial points. "Nerves didn't seventh game, the general impression was that Delgado had the technique to wrong-foot

He began by showing the his opponent as long he did not suffer a serious lapse.

The match began to fall apart for Delgado when he was serving at 3-4 in the second set. Having survived two double-faults, which put him down 0-40, he crafted a game point and had all the court in which to convert it after his opponent left the ball hanging high close to the net,

begging to be volleyed away. Delgado was unable to resist

casion and slam-dunk a smash. à la Pete Sampras. The leap was fine, but Delgado belted the ball into the net -slam-plonk. "A bit of sun came through one of the windows," Delgado said. "But I should still have made it."

The mistake was costly. Black broke for 5-3, and served out the set oo his third set point, driving a forehand to clip a sideline with the shot.

"My momentum changed," the a temptation to rise to the oc- Delgado said. He had two op- haps trying to overcompensate 3-5, and he took it.

portunities to break in the first game of the second set, but netted a service return on the first. He tamely netted a backhand to miss the second chance, although in this case an excuse might be made that he was startled at the manner of Black's mishit smash over baseline which\_

had gifted him the opportunity. Once Black had levelled the match, he swiftly lured Delgado into making further errors. Per-

with his serve. Delgado doublefaulted to lose the opening game of the third set and then failed

to take any of three break points in the second game.

It was now Black's turn to rampage, and Delgado won only one of 12 games in a run which left him trailing by two sets to one and broken for 0-2 in the fourth. Although he fought back to

Black a fourth break point at

# In Monday's 20-page sports section

Ravanelli and Juninho at Wembley

Glenn Moore and Mike Rowbottom eport from tomorrow's Coca-Cola Cup final as Middlesbrough's International superstars take on Leicester City

The Premiership returns

Comprehensive coverage of the weekend's major football matches, including reports from every Premiership game

That Was The Weekend That Was

Our alternative guide to the weekend football programme

Aintree aftermath



Richard Edmondson and Ken Jones report from the Grand National. Plus: the jockeys' verdicts on the big race

### The Monday Interview

I genuinely thought I needed a very long and quite possibly permanent break away from salling. Now I understand that I was never really running away from the seas but merely preparing myself to come back'



Tracy Edwards, who made her name as skipper of the all-woman crew of Maiden in the 1990 Whitbread Round the World yacht race, tells Ian Stafford why she is returning to big-time ocean racing

Plus extensive coverage of a major weekend of sporting action, including: Chris Hewett on tomorrow's rugby union match of the weekend as Wasps take on Bath ohn Roberts on Britain's Davis Cup Challenge Andy Farrell in New Orleans at the last golf tournament before the US Masters Greg Wood on sports betting Sports Book of the Week

Every week in the Independent's Monday sports section: the best of British sports writing and photography

Central

**London to** 

the centre

of Paris or

How many times have you arrived at the

You're miles from the centre of town and

When you travel by Eurostar, you arrive in

the heart of Paris or Brussels which, after

all, is exactly where you want to get to.

sirport to find your journey isn't over?

you have to wait ages for a taxi.

Brussels.

# Armed police on duty at Grand National

Racing

RICHARD EDMONDSON AND **GREG WOOD** 

If any animal rights activists arrive at Aintree today with intent to disrupt the Grand National they may consider the response to their threat a little severe.

Armed police officers carrying semi-automatic rifles will be highly visible for the first time at Liverpool following this week's terrorist activity on the motorways. The men with carbines will be among a police The police commander at Ainpresence of 500, compared to

200 on the first two days of the meeting, supplementing the course's own protection staff.

Security has also been heightened because of the arrival today of the Princess Royal, who will present the big-race trophy and unveil a bust of Peter O'Sullevan, the BBC commentator who completes 50 work-

ing Nationals this afternoon. The easy cliche in racing has always been that the IRA are Irish and the Irish like racehorses, ergo there will be no disruption to activities on the turf.

timer, does not accept this and his officers are in place to combat trouble from either the animal rights splinter group, Action Against The Grand National, or those responsible for the mo-

torway disruption on Thursday. "There is an extensive visible police operation and also covert operations," be said. "It is a highprofile presence: there are armed officers at all pedestrianised entrances and around the perimeter, but not on the main concourse. This is for public reassurance purposes. We have not had any specific threats from any

range of contingency plans to deal with any eventuality."

There were no equine fatalities over the big fences yesterday, though the first obstacle over the mountains of spruce was hardly a great public relations exercise as four runners came to grief. Chilipour's capsize appeared particularly gruesome, though his thrashing on the turf was caused by a leg trapped in the reins and he was swiftly released. There was no such fortunate ending for Penny A Day, the favourite for a hurdle race, who was later put down after shattering a cannon bone.

The most serious among the injured in the jockeys' room was Jamie Osborne, who gave up his remaining rides after an organshaking fall from Bear Claw. He promised to be back to ride the

National favourite, Suny Bay. Another fancied runner, Wylde Hide, who runs in the colours of the high-rolling Irish punter J P McManus, will carry into the race the largest off-course cash bet on the National since betting shops were le-galised almost 40 years ago. The wager - £25,000 each-way at odds of 20-1 - was placed in a London office of William Hill 11 days ago,

and if Wylde Hide is successful will return £555,000 to the fortunate backer, who may - or may not - be McManus himself. The total betting turnover oo the race could approach £70m.

The race is so open that any one of five or six runners could start favourite. "You could almost open a book on what will start favourite," a Hills spokesman, said yesterday. "If the public went mad for Jenny Pitman you could even go as far down as Nahthen Lad [currently 16-1] for market leader, but I suspect it will probably be Avro Anson."

Aintree guide, pages 29-31

# tree. Superintendent Ian La- organisations, but we have a

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 3265, Saturday 5 April

Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution SPECHALORIANCH
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ASTAIL
LUTURGY RUCKETIS
CEEEL
LURRIES FARRIER
LURRIES FARRIER

.........

Scorn endless provocation (4) That's rash (10)

Bishop fixed nice fee for cleric's living (8) 11 Stick about to bend hack in wind (6) 12 Hock's suitable for toast (6)

13 European's enclosed right bill for radio, say 15 Wander with one after

ebbing drift into low sea (13) 18 Radiant, short girl's boarded express (8) Ramble twists round

lake (6) mongrel's back (6)

24 Uniform for regular 25 President has lines in banalities (10) 26 A Northern animal

docked again (4)

DOWN

 It may get broken if you step on it (5,5)
2 Day with wind down is

a close one (6)
3 Bill I'd settled in US cash, as luck would have it (8) Wife's amid rising

fumes from cooking accessory (6) Harvested a European

fruit glut Cut gets batter's fifth run (4) Uninformed? Need re-

duced price index with revised details? (13) 14 Wanted to hold Victory Day, making wordy speeches? (4-6)

16 Agent for English branch installed in time (8)

17 Boy is pressurised by cunning felon (8)
19 A rising tax society shares (6)

21 Dessert has brown palm (6) 23 Feels strange, show fear without question

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies office asw Oxford Dictionary of Quointions . Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, E.O. Box 4018, The Independent, I.C. anada Square, Canary Wharf, London E.14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: Mrs. J. Wilkinston, Sevenoulus, Mrs. P. Wateret, Bideford; P. Bicknell, Uckfield; P. Wadley, Woking; Miss S. Keen, Finchley, London N3.

# Wenger scornful of Ferguson plan

**Football** 

**GUY HODGSON** 

The Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger, yesterday poured scorn on the request by his Manchester United counterpart, Alex Ferguson, for the season to be extended.

To speak of an extension to the season is ridiculous," Wenger said. "You cannot say your championship is serious and then extend the season. If the rest of Europe reads that we cannot finish our championship properly, they cannot take us seciously.

The problem is that the managers are not represented when these decisions are made by the Premier League. They cannot come to us in April and say it is not working out right. The prob-lems have come, because nobody allowed for Manchester United going so far in the Champions' League when it was always a re-

alistic possibility."
"I believe the managers should have their say. The 20 club bosses should get together and be represented when the fix-tures are scheduled."

United and Liverpool have asked for the matches to be postponed because of their involvement in European competitions. The decision will be taken next week by a two-man Premier

Blackburn may have to wait until a month before the start

But that prospect is now looking increasingly unlikely, and with Serie A not due to finish until June 15 it could be July before Hodgson can move to Ewood Park.

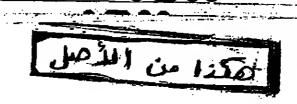
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League board.
The satellite broadcaster,

BSkyB, have denied using their influence to ensure that the May 11 cut-off remains. "We have no say in the matter whatsoever, Vic Wakeling, bead of Sky Sport, said. "All we said to the Premier League was when they've sorted it out, just tell us and we'll cover the crucial matches whenever."

of next season to welcome their new manager, Roy Hodgson. Although Hodgsoo was never due to officially take over un-til the summer, Rovers were hoping for an early release from his present club In-ternazionale.







Cricket may be going through a sombre patch in this country but the game is played in its original carefree spirit around the world. Here, lads on a beach in Jamaica play on happily into the dusk. Perhaps their IMAGE OF spirit of derring-do will be recaptured when the English season starts in 10 days. Photograph by Glynn Griffiths with a Canon EOS1, 80-200mm zoom. To order a print of this picture phone 0171-293 2534

# thelongweekend THE INDEPENDENT - SATURDAY 5 APRIL 1997

were one run short of victory in the Bulawayo. Test and one wicket sbort at Auckland. It felt as though the English, who were once pre-sumed to have won first prize in the lottery of life, were now on the receiving end of some cos-

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returns

thank and they

WESOK: 1

SOME CAST TOP 

Crview

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mic practical joke.

At the 1996 World Cup, the England squad resembled a bad-tempered grandmother attending a teenage rave. Unable to comprehend what was bappening – on the field or off it – the players just lingered, looking sullen as well as iocompetent. They conveyed as bad an impression in Zimbabwe at the eod of the year. And, though they appeared to have learned to display a little grace under pressure by the time they reached New Zealand in January 1997, that merely emphasised their earlier petulance. The merely emphasised their earlier petulance. The captain, Mike Atherton, and coach, David Lloyd, were culpable in failing to understand the importance of their roles as public figures. But it was hardly surprising. Until the end of 1996, they were paid by the Test and County Cricket Board, a body that found public relations so difficult that for its last couple of years it simply gave up on the whole business.

the whole business. The consistent failure of the England team is the biggest single cause of the crisis, but it is not the crisis itself. The blunt fact is that cricket in the UK has become unattractive to the overwhelming majority of the population. The game is widely perceived as élitist, exclusionist and dull.

Happily this is not the case with cricket around the world. Wisden' also carries reports on the exploits of the more unlikely cricket playing nations.

Afghanistan: The ravages of war have brought

n 1996-97 the national team reached a point f WORDS OF THE WEEK where even the good days were bad. They

'The English squad resembled a bad tempered grandmother attending her first rave'

The new edition of the cricketer's Bible, 'Wisden', has harsh things to say about the state of the nation's game, but cheerful thoughts about the game abroad

cricket to Afghanistan. More than 1.5 million refugees fled to Pakistan through the Kiryber Pass. A small percentage picked up an enthusiasm for A suan percentage picked up an enthusiasm for cricket during their exile and took it home with them. In April 1996 eight teams played a 50-over softball cricket tournament with finals in the provincial capital, Jalalabad, using a tennis ball covered in plastic adhesive tape to reduce the bounce. A growd of 200 watched the final The game is played on dusty, uneven grounds, often with war-damaged buildings in the background. The dust is swept from the wicket, and the game has to start in the late afternoon because of the intense summer heat. Players wear traditional dress, with the umpires in black or dark brown.

China: The Peking Cricket Club began the 1996

season with a full complement of teams. The Beijing Chaoyang stadium became the club's new ground. That offers a vast improvement on the hazardous conditions at the Beijing Physical Institute: it has more grass than dust, it is more centrally located, it has facilities, and it provides shade for those wanting to sleep before they are called out to bat.

Cnlombia: Cricket is not endemic in the High Andes. Indeed, it is so alien to local culture that Colombian customs reputedly impounded a priceless shipment of bats and balls from Venezuela some years ago as "dangerous, possibly subversive material". Bogota is a challenge for the bowler. At 8,300 feet above sea level, anyone trying to bowl medium-fast soon runs out of puff,

and the ball will not swing much in the thin, dry air. The field is kikuyu grass: the ball will not skim the surface, and must be hit dangerously high to reach the boundary.

Ethiopia: Games are played oo a football field in Addis Adaba which is composed of volcanic rock with a covering of soil and grass. The pitch is marked out by string, then the groundsman cuts it with his sickle, and the clippings are taken away to feed his donkey. Bigger rocks are pulled out by hand, but it is still imperative to use a soft ball.

Kiribati: Cricket in the republic -33 fragmented and isolated South Pacific atolls that used to be the Gilbert Islands - dates back to the arrival of the British in 1892. The most dramatic event of recent years came when the Kiribati XI flew to play an away fixture against the Republic of Tuvalu. Batting second, Kiribati were down to the last pair and needed six to win off the last ball. Darkness was falling fast and pressure mounting - the plane for the return journey had to take off from a narrow strip of land, between the ocean and the lagoon, with no landing lights. The batsman on strike was a strapping player called Tapatulu, a man of fearsome strength renowned locally for having once been lost at sea in a canoe for three months. It was a good-length ball. Tapatulu took a step outside leg stump and, with the well-used "Len Hutton" team bat, dispatched the ball over cow-shot corner for six.

'Wisden' is published by John Wisden Co. Price £26, hardback and paperback.

# INSIDE

Pensions: the good, the bad, the ugly

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Kate Beckinsale: a search for comfort

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Barcelona

Dusseldorf

Geneva

Los Angeles

Mexico

All three may be subject to limited availability and travel periods. Passenger traves excluded. For details and conditions see ITV Televest page 380, your travel agent or British Airways Travel Shop. Or book and pay at our internet site, http://www.

for these and many other World Offers call: 0345 222111

Book by 23rd April '97.

WORLD OFFERS **BRITISH AIRWAYS** 

The world's favourite airline

Indian ink onto the oak near

the nails and straps, to simulate corrosion. Stir up a mixture of brown paint

pigment (Brown Turkey Umber and Venetian Red)

white woodworker's glue and

a little water, and paint the

Paint a few additional marks

metalwork a rusty brown.

on to the box, using the leftover paint with Mineral

Black added to it. When the

a top quality brown wax, applied with a brush. Wax it

every day for the next week.

hope you like it, and I hope other people who weren't in on the struggle will be thrilled

and impressed. Above all, I hope you enjoyed making it.

Tools: Two planes (a shoulder plane and a smoothing plane),

a tenon saw, coping saw and

gouge, screwdriver and hammer (and pincers to pull

out the nails). Drills: 10mm,

3mm. Screws: 12 M5 x 40

woodworker's glue. Three odd

countersunk steel. PVA

nails. Ammonic

(01453 832707)

Essential addresses:

English oak: Interesting

Compton Martin, Somerset

BS18 6LH (01761 463 356)

Gigg Mill, Old Bristol Road, Nailsworth, Glos. GL6 OJP

Burnt Umber, Venetian Red.

Mineral Black paint pigment, Supreme Antique Wax: Fiddes and Son, Cabinet Maker's

Suppliers, Florence Works, Brindley Road, Cardiff, CFI

71X (01222 340323). Chisels

and gouges: Herry Taylor (Tools) Ltd, 6 Lowther Road,

Sheffield, Yorkshire (0114

Hinges, nails, hooks etc: MSV,

Timbers, Hazel Farm,

hacksaw blade. Marking gauge, set square, chisel.

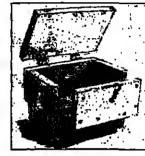
12. And that's the box. I

paint is dry, wax the box with

# Fake-it-yourself antique furniture

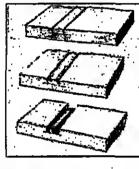
George Buchanan shows you how to do make an instant Jacobean box-stool

ou've had your fair share of fun and games oo this page: now for something rown-up and useful. The photograph shows a small oak box stool, probably Jacobean, with crudely carved decorations and arched ends. strapped in iron. I made it last week, and I thought some of you with a few tools, a little cash, a few hours and a restless desire to do something, might like to make a copy. So these are the instructions - it won't take long. All componeots, incloding ready-sawn oak, can



1 Saw all the pieces to the right size and plane them flat. Even if your wood is as smooth as marble, plane it. This is no place for a machined finish.

Mark the grooves in the ends, and scribe the depth of the groove with a marking



2 Saw down the edges of the grooves, in the order shown in the drawings, and chisel out

and cut them out with a coping saw, bow saw - or jig saw if you have one (see top of next column).
To see if everything fits.

3 Draw the arches freehand,

hold all the bits together with a big rubber band. If the bottom is too long, deepen the grooves; if it is too narrow, trim the ends with a plane. If it is too short, plane off the excess from the ends after the box is assembled.



The sides are glued, and held with six screws hidden beneath wooden pegs.

On each side plank, pencil in the screw boles. Start with a 10mm hole, 9mm deep at each spot, then follow right through with a 3mm drill.

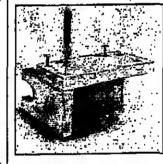
Woodworker's glue is lippery, which makes it hard to hold bits without their slipping. So collect some nails and a light hammer and keep them handy. Run glue on to



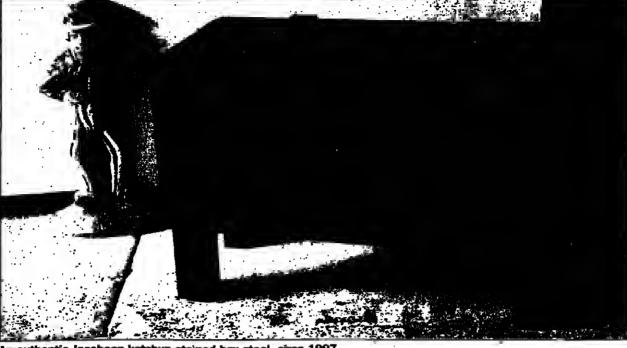
the end and one side of the bottom. Slip the bottom into the groove (that arrangement is quite stable - what a relief!), and lift the side into place. Push a nail through each bole, and tack the side to the end. Press the bottom hard into the groove, and hold it with another nail.

the side of one end, and oo to

5 Take the 3mm drill and bore a hole through the remaining screw hole into the bottom plank, going the full depth of the screw. Lodge a screw in the bole and wind it tight. Remove the nails one at a time and replace them with screws. Wash off excess glue



brush, and dry with a rag. Your crude construction bardly resembles the little



An authentic Jacobean ketchup-stained box-stool, circa 1997

treasure captured in the photograph. Don't worry, just take one step at a time; it is nearly there.

**6** Use the offcuts from the

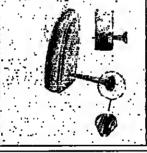
arches for the pegs. Split them oversize with an axe or chisel, and trim them to a tight fit



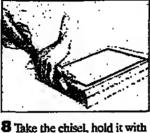
with the gouge. Squirt glue in each hole and hammer in the When the gine is dry, cut

off the pegs with a hacksaw blade. If you slip a card over the peg before you saw it, the hlade won't score the sides of the box. Plane the ends and sides smooth. Now, let's give the box

shape and charm, Before ... starting, consider the carved mouldings. The precision of the carving is nothing like asimportant as their boldness. If woodwork I bet that you will carve the mouldings too timidly. Don't be diffideot!



no 6 gouge. With a file, sharpen the screw-cutter to the point as illustrated, set it (by turning the screw), and draw it along the lines round the top and front until you have a deep groove. Before it is waxed the oak is



7 The tools to use are the

screw-cutter, chisel and 1/21.

both hands, and slice off a 9mm chamfer round the outsides of the front and top. Work along the grain before cutting the ends. Arm yourself with the

ouge. Powering with the right hand, and controlling with the left, sink it into the chamfer, and scoop it along. If the gouge digs in too deep, lower the handle. If that doesn't work, try in the opposite direction, or take smaller

9 Cut across the grain first, blade at each corner to give a mitre. If you have difficulty holding the top, screw a block underneath it, and clamp that in the vice.



10 Next, gouge a chamfer round the arches, and finish by removing sharp edges with a penknife or fine sandpaper. Now stand back and admire it; your box-stool is going to look a lot worse before it looks

tinted the mottled greenish grey of neglected church coffers. Colouring is achieved with ammonia gas (easy to obtain dissolved in water from a chemist, or the cabinet maker's suppliers listed below), and mottling with tomato ketchup. Take care how you handle the former. read the label, and don't breathe the furnes!

Take a kitchen rag loaded



thickly and unevenly over the is quite subtle and fairly random. Copy an old piece of furniture if you need some ideas. Your poor sucky box! Take it outside and seal it in a clear plastic bag. Cut a slit in the plastic, slip in a dish of ammonia, and close the slit with masking tape. Puff the bag about a bit to circulate the

Leave the box in the foul fumes for an hour or two. Nothing seems to happen at first, then suddenly it changes.

When it is ready (don't leave it too long, it always finishes darker than yoo expect), don rubber gloves, draw a deep breath, squint your eyes, and remove the box by Caesarean section. Wash the ketchup off

with meths and a scrubbing

brush, and dry it.



hook (pre-drill 3/3 of the way through the box before nailing), and fit the eye in the lid. This is made from a length of iron wire, bent like a staple. It is pushed through two holes in the lip of the box, and the ends are bent down and tapped back into two shallow holes. The loop on the underside is then twisted 90 degrees, which locks it in place. Take a fine hrush and

and exactly the right card.

West took his queen, and

third round, then started oo

clubs. He needed to find West

with precisely the ace and one

chance and, when his low club

lead went to the jack and king

proved to have no more hearts.

touch that West missed? When

West should go in immediately

with his ace and - the key play -

follow with Q! This drives out.

South's remaining side entry

unblock the clubs. Declarer can

now make two diamond tricks

and East is under a little pressure

when they are cashed but he can

keep his guard in spades and so

defeat the contract. . .

before he has been able to

declarer had the rest of the tricks.

Well, what was the finishing

declarer first led clubs from hand,

round of the suit completely. When the ace fell and West

other card in the suit to have any

(which won), he ducked the next

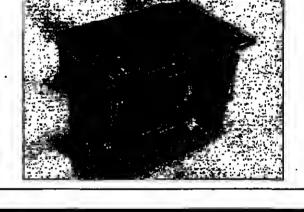
cootinued with the suit.

Declarer covered with the jack,

South beld up his ace until the



2340282) Cutting list for seasoned English Oak Metric: top (1) 330mm x 190mm x 18mm; sides (2) 210mm x 145mm x 25mm; front & back (2) 318 x 140 x 18mm; bottom (1) 285mm x 145mm x 18mm. Imperial: (1) 13"x 7.5"x 75"; (2) 8.25" x 5.75" x 1"; (2) 12.5" x 5.5" x 75" (1) 11.25" x



# people play

Chess, tennis and washing up at bedtime, with Pandora Melly

Duncan Minshull, 36, Editor of Radio 4's Book at

I bave a theory about n and games. If you ask them about their favourite pastime, most will say "chess and tennis". I think it is because men like strategy. Chess is making strategic moves using your head, tennis is the same thing but physical: where you run; how you move your feet. This could be baloney, but it seems to make sense and a lot of writers talk about it - Julian Barnes and Salman Rushdie, for instance.

I don't think many men

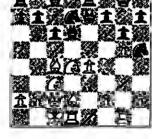
actually play games, but they borrow the terminology. If you crash your car, you might say: God, I hit that one into the net"; if you win an argument, you shout: "Checkmatel" To go one step further, I think that games answer the competitive nature, or ego. of men. If they think they re good at something, they'll describe it in terms of sport: "I gave it my best shot". If a bunch of women get . together, they don't use lacrosse expressions to describe their lives; for instance, you don't hear a woman say: "I really shot the washing-up into the back of the net" - not that all women wash up all of the time - but if a man was having fun doing the washing up, be might say: "I finished it in five moves". I do the washing up; it never seems to bloody stop. What games do I play?

I've played tennis and chess with the same friend for twelve years. Now that we're older, tennis is much more enjoyable - not so many tantrums when we hit the net or the ball goes into someone's garden. In the court on either side of us are usually men in their seventies. I look at them and think: "Great, I'll still be doing this when I'm

Marigold Kitchen Extra Life rubber gloves, small, medium or large, with a natural cotton flock lining. Available all over the place for £1.35 (01992-451111 for details).

The games page is edited by William Hartston

### Chess William Hartston



If at all possible, you should always try to play the move that your opponent's last move was intended to prevent. It may be worth it for the shock value alone, but also the positional damage cao be enormous when a move designed to preveot something turns out not to have the desired effect.

The diagram positioo comes from the game McNab-Wilson, played in the 4 Nations Chess league last weekend. Black had iust played 14...g6, keeping the white knight out of f5 and also stopping White's g-pawn from advancing to

That, at least, was the intention, but the Scottish grandmaster playing White continued 15.Nf5! gxf5 16.g6! combining both moves that had supposedly been prevented. However, the sacrifice is by no means clearly correct. White can calculate as far as 16...hxg6 17.Rxg6+ Ng7 (17...Kf8 18.Bh6+ or 17...Kh7 18.Rh6+ are clearly bad for Black) 18.Rdg1 Be5 19.exf5 Nf8 20.Rh6, but after that it is not easy to

be sure that White's queen can reinforce the attack at h3 before Black can summoo up some counterplay. As the game went, Black managed to block the a2-h7 diagonal loog eoough to force White to invest a whole rook in his attack, but once the diagooal became open again, Black could only huv time at the cost of large

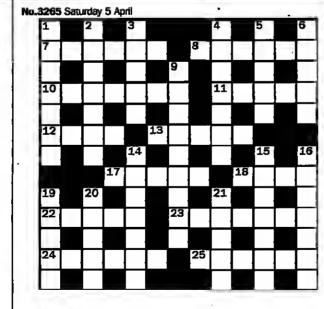
material loss.

A good game by McNab whose tricky move-order in the opening seemed to lure his opponeot into a variation with which he was not familiar. Black could have secured a comfortable position with 4...g6 instead of 4...e6, while 9...Re8 is a serious waste of time. If he is going to play dxc4 and e5, he should do so at once, keeping the rook on f8.

White: Colin McNab

Black: John Wilson Semi-Slav Defence 17 Rxg6+ Ng7 18 Rdg1 Be5 19 exf5 Nf8 4 Qc2 e6 20 Rh6 b5 5 d4 Nbd7 21 Bb3 b4 6 Nc3 Bd6 22 Na4 c5 7 Bd2 0-0 23 Qd3 o4 8 0-0-0 Qe7 24 Qb3 Ng6 9 Rg1 Re8 25 Rgxg6 fxg6 10 g4 dxc4 26 Bxc4+ Be6 11 e4 e5 27 fxe6 Nh5 27 fxe6 Nh5 12 g5 Nh5 28 Rxg6+ Bg7 13 Bxc4 exd4 29 Qxh5 Rac8 14 Nxd4 g6 30 h3 Qb7 15 Nf5 gxf5 31 Bh6 Qh1+ 16 g6 hxg6 32 Qd1 resigns

### Concise crossword



### **ACROSS**

10 Distinguished (7) 11 Hymn of praise (5) 12 Deserve (4) 13 Dexterity (5) 17 Low-value coin (5) 18 New Zealander (4) 22 Inferior (5) 23 Remedy (7)

Reddish-blue colour (6) 8 Bewitching (6)

24 Pass (6) 25 Clergyman (6)

Mechanic's tool (7) Speech-making (7) Sphere (5) Practical joke (3-4) Defamation in writing

Representative (5) Calculation (9) Restitution (7) 15 Keeper of journal (7) 16 Precious stoce (7) 19 Change (5) 20 Curse (5) 21 Normal (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Hackle, 4 Height (Acolyte), 7 Visual aid, 9 Pear, 10 Safe, 11 Strop, 13 Nicety, 14 Waddle, 15 Zenith, 17 Brolly, 19 Earls, 20 Rats, 22 Poor, 23 Elevation, 24 Nudged, 25 Eclair. DOWN: 1 Happen, 2 Knit, 3 Equity, 4 Hallow, 5 Iris, 6 Thieve, 7 Vaccinate, 8 Dandelion, 11 State, 12 Pairs, 15 Zircon, 16 Halved, 17 Blithe, 18 Yorker, 21 Slug, 22 Poll.

# Bridge Alan Hiron

Love all; dealer North

North •AKQ73

<b>9953</b>	
<b>0</b> J7	3
<b>◆</b> K 3	
West	East
<b>◆</b> 106	<b>♦</b> J9854
<b>VO76</b>	♥K 1082
♦Q 10 8 6 4 2	ΦA.
<b>♠</b> AJ	<b>+</b> 1052
South	
<b>+</b> 2	
♥AJ4	
<b>◊</b> K95	
<b>♣</b> 098764	
The defence was off to an	

excellent start oo on this deal but at the end missed a difficult opportunity to complete what would bave been a masterpiece.

North opened 1 , South responded 24, and North rebid his spades. With both players pushing a little, South tried 2NT and North went on to game. West led ♦6 against 3NT and, after winning with his ace, East switched to ♥10 - the right suit

# **Perplexity**

Mixed doubles:

Holbein poem sorrow corpsed chief ax-man.

The above sentence conceals three loosely related answers. each of two words. To find them all you have to do is to group the six given words into three pairs, then rearrange the letters within each pair.

answer opeoed on 16 April will win a copy of the new Chambers 21st Century Dictionary. Answers should be sent to: Perplexity, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Londoo E14 5DL

The sender of the first correct

22 March answers: The professor's pin number may be 0181, 0189, 0247 or 146.
Winner: Alan Jolley (Thornton-

Paris flea markets: The number published for James Edwards' antique hunting trips on yesterday's Style page should have been: 01732 842074 or 0421 422400. Apologies to all concerned.

# Backgammon Chris Bray

Normally where you find large amounts of money - in a high stakes game of backgammon, for example you find slightly unscrupulous people who would like to give themselves an edge by illegal means. In other words, plain old-fashloned cheating. So is there much cheating in backgammon? In any

game you can cheat only if the opportunity arises or can be created. This is far easier in a game such as bridge where card sharps and colluding partners can wreck bavoc. Backgammon is a game of open information: all the playing pieces are always visible, and thus it is much more difficult to get away with a false play. The rules have also been tightened considerably over the last few years to deal with the problem of accidental illegal moves.

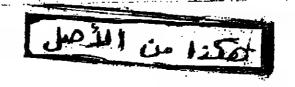
The main area where cheats have been successful in backgammon is with the dice. A good dice mechanic can appear to roll two dice from his cup where in reality he only rolls one of them and places the other on his required number. Being able to "throw" a oumber at will obviously confers a huge advantage on the practitioner. This problem has been largely overcome by the use of baffle boxes. A baffle box is a device placed at the edge of the board consisting of a number of angled bars of wood enclosed in a boxed structure. Each player must shake his dice in his cup and then into the baffle box. The box completely eliminates the possibility of dice manipulation.

The most ingenious such manipulation was perpetrated by a well known West Coast expert who always did quite well in club play, but exceptionally well in home chouettes. The explanation was a magnetised board and dice operated by a device concealed in his trouser pocket. Needless to say the expert is now persona non grata in the backgammon world! My advice is use a baffle box if you can, always use dice cups (preferably ones with large internal lips) and use precision dice if possible.

There are other possible forms of cheating such as falsifying the score in a moocy game, collusion in chouettes, taking a break in a long tournament match and bringing a different scoresheet back to the table than the one you walked away with and then arguing over the score ... and probably counties other small

However, I am pleased to say that in all my years of playing, other than a couple of bounced cheques, and one person with a somewhat dubious dice rolling action, I have never - to my knowledge - had to deal with any form of cheating.

TURN TO PAGE 31 ... for the weather, traffic reports, the sky at night, and Damien Hurts' cartoon sage of artistic angst



ate Beckinsale raises ber dark eyes and nods through a mouthful of tomato.

Yes, she does remember the day her

father died. She falls silent and proceeds

to prod the carrot on her plate. Quite what she thinks of my question is hard to tell. She

was only five years old when he had a fatal heart attack but references to it will probably haunt Kate

throughout her career. As if being five were not a

tough enough age to deal with the loss of a par-

ent, the fact that the parent is famous brings other dimensions into play. You try to deal with grief internally, but then interviewers ask you to explain

The star of the popular series, The Lovers and

Porridge, Richard Beckinsale is such a permanent

fixture in TV Repeatland that for us there's an

inescapable and incessant reminder that she is his

daughter. For Kate it's a constant - possibly painful

can still catch you 20 years later. Ever since he died

he's been on telly very regularly so I'm very used

to it. But sometimes it'll catch me out and I'll think

'Fuck. I'm nider now than you were then.'" Which

makes the task of finding sense in one's own mem-

ories even more difficult. Inevitably, there must be a confused blurring between the personal but hazy

recollections of a young child and those impres-

sions gleaned off the box. "I have seen him more

nn television than f have in life but there are cer-

tainly enough memories for me not to feel that it'a

somebody I didn't know." At 23, Kate bears more

then a passing physical resemblance to her dad.

Fresh-skinned and full-lipped she is exceedingly

pretty in a very natural, freshly scrubbed, sort of

way. Her paternal grandfather is Burmese and

4 Anybody who has lost

anybody knows that

while it does get less

painful, it can still catch

you 20 years later 7

she's certain it's to those genes she owes her hair.

According to her it "sticks out all over the place".

But I wouldn't know. In the growing out stage after

a short and spiky cut she has it firmly hidden under

a floppy velvet bat. "With my mum I often get,

'Oob you're just like your father.' And she finds

that my sense of humour is quite similar to his."

Mum, or "Jude" as she calls her, is actress Judy

Loe. Despite her famous parents few, bar the

extremely uncharitable; would suggest that Kate

is carving out a formidable reputation on anything

other than her own merits. Although if her most

high-profile nutings are anything to go by - par-

ticularly in Emma and as Flora Poste in Cold Com-

fort Farm - for the time being at least she seems

around I'd be doing them," she claims. "But the

majority of the quality work isn't modern unfor-

tunately and a lot of very good scripts happen to

pleasantly breathy rather than braying. The com-

himation of that and her generous use of double

negatives has me mentally conjuring up old Hayley Mills films where well-spoken girls anguished

over sick animals. That this image suggests itself

isn't chuffed with her stepfather, director Roy Bat-

tersby. "I couldn't have knitted a better one," she

says. He moved in when she was nine. For a vul-

nerable child, still grieving and accustomed to her

mother's exclusive attention, it could have been

tricky for everyone. "Roy knew I was a traumatised little person. He didn't expect this idyllic little girl

in plaits who'd be nice to him. I wasn't sure

whether I wanted my mum to marry anyone else.

[In fact, they have never married.] And f certainly

didn't want any brothers. Roy had four sons and one

daughter. f wasn't in a boy mood. He's been so bril-

In what was a precarious position even by step-parent standards. Roy played his opening cards

going as Carmen Miranda. On the first meeting

I had with him he turned up with this fantastic Car-

men Miranda hat. I thought, 'Here is a man who

There was a big fancy dress party and f was

liant. He wasn't pusby, be let me come to him."

"And also I've got a posh voice." So it is, but

"If there were more good original screenplays

rather stuck in playing period misses.

be adapted from very good novels.

"Anybody who's lost anybody knows that while it does get less painful, in that immediate way, it

those feelings for public consumption.

– reminder of her loss?

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# Facing up to the past

is no doubt due in part to the fact that she has brought along her poorly kitten to the interview Carefully wrapped in Kate's coat, kitty is allocated Yet she does concede that perhaps she wasn't the chair so we adjourn, Ruby Wax style, to be on the easiest of little girls. When she wasn't outside the hotel bed. Stretched out and reaching for the their Chiswick house attempting to flog the confirst of several Silk Cuts, every answer is as lucidly tents of her mother's fruit bowl she was showing sure-footed as it is direct. It is not arrogant; instead off. "I was the sort of child who would stick on a she displays uncanny composure, whether she's distute and shout, 'Look at me, look at me' and then cussing her current plans to write a screenplay or everybody would and I'd get embarrassed and say, pondering the personal consequences of her child-"Don't look." She breaks into giggles. "I'm probhood. The latter is a recurring theme. Not that she

ably still like that actually." As a teenager, that harmless attention seeking became something far more dangerous. At 15, she simply stopped eating, a reaction she directly attributes to ber father's death. "I'm probably four stone heavier now than I was at my thinnest," she says, matter of factly gesturing to her body. Wrapped up in obscuring baggy layers, it's nevertheless obvious there's not a spare ounce as she is. "At my lowest f was about five stone. Had f been older when f had a breakdown I think I would have been an alcobolic."

-She refers to it unashamedly as a breakdown. "Anorexia is a hreakdown," she insists. "It's just that the mode of it happens to be the most accessible thing for teenage girls to do. It's very prevalent in teenagers because in those years there is the most amazing renaissance of your whole self. Anything that's lurking comes and bites you in the neck. For some kids, if something traumatic happens to them when they're very young they pick something safer to worry about. The worst thing 

Kate Beckinsale talks to Janie Lawrence that flies around."

about it is that it takes on a life of its own separate from whatever's caused it. So you're stuck with the symptoms, or mentality, of it even when you have cracked what caused it."

If all this sounds a polished self-analysis, it is. Knowing that she was in trouble, Kate promptly went to ber mother and requested Freudian analysis. For a teenager deep in the throes of anorexia it displays both a stunningly mature insight and a high degree of self-preservation.

"I was always able to talk to my mum. I could say anything from, 'What's a blow job?' to 'Are you sure you still love me?'. And my family were very respectful of analysis so I'd grown up with it being good thing rather than a bad, f knew that unless f did face some things f would probably die myself. If it had just been dealt with as a food problem I wouldn't be over it now. If you just treat the symptoms of it you're fucked. It has to be addressed as a whole part of your life."

Has she reached a conclusion as to why she was especially susceptible? "I think there were all kinds of different reasons. Although I know not everybody who gets annrexia has a parent that's died, if you learn as a kid that seemingly fairly healthy

people drop dead at 31 it sets you up in a fairly crap way. And there's a certain amount of guilt

That she has talked about this at all when the PR bas already warned me that it is a no-go area has come as a surprise. She berself worries as to bow it will appear. "I don't want people thinking that I'm whingeing on again. But considering I'm nne of the only people I know who's been lucky enough to get over it I think it's worth talking about even if it belps only one person."

Certainly she's scoffing down her salad and claims that these days she never weighs herself or has any residual hang-ups from those years. Twice-, some-times thrice-weekly analysis sessions stretching through four years have left ber, she says, with nn ground left to cover. She grins, "I think I must be about 45 in analysis terms. Now I can't go back until I'm 50." Not surprisingly during this period, her appearances at school - Godolphin and Latymer in west London - were bit-and-miss affairs. "I stopped being able to function in my life. I was this mad; I'd turn up 20 minutes before the end of the double lesson and go, 'Sorry I'm late' and sit down."

She usually worked at home and still managed to secure a place at New College, Oxford to read French and Russian. The headmistress was very tolerant but there were a few teachers who were very pissed off that I got into Oxford-I don't suppose they could take any credit for it."

She had already decided that she wanted to act but says, rather hizarrely, that she chose university over drama school so that she could mix with mathematicians and geographers. Yet it wasn't long before she was juggling her course and acting jobs. By the end of her first year, while her fellow students headed off to waitress, she was part of the Ken and Em show, playing Hero in Much Ado about Nothing. After spending her third year in Paris she knew that she had to make a choice. "It was get-ting to the point where I wasn't enjoying either thing enough because both were very high pressure. I was burning out and I knew I had to make a decision."

cerned there are certain things she won't compromise upon. Nudity is nut. Underwear? Out too. The temptation is to think that maybe, despite her protestations, she still has unresolved issues about her body. It's a lazy assumption and rather patronising, particularly as she is one of those rare 23-year-olds who declares herself a feminist and doesn't fullow it

She has a steely resolve that where work is con-

up with an apologetic "hut".

"f remember saying to Helen Mirren, 'Do you just do nudes when it's necessary in the plot?' and she said. 'It never is.'

"I thought, if she said it's not, then I'm not doing it. If the climate were not such that I was always expected to do it then I would. But I think it's worrying that every script says we think your character would probably have a shower at this point. Well, she'd probably have a shit at this point but you don't want to see that."

She's on a roll. "There seems to be this worrying new wave of feminism which says if you're in charge of your own exploitation then it's OK. Everybody is still being shafted but they think

4 I said to Helen Mirren, "Do you just do nudes when it's necessary to the plot?" She said, "It never is" 7

they're being liberated, which is worse."

Thankfully, none of ber recent well-received television appearances have required her to get her kit off. As Emma in the TV adaptation of the Jane Austen novel she was firmly buttoned up. A crisp and self possessed portrayal, for Austen purists it captured Emma's motivations in a way that the Hollywood film, with its inordinately long lingering close ups of Gwyneth Paltrow's neck, didn't even attempt. Mention the big-screen extravaganza and, endearingly, Kate doesn't launch into stan-dard actressy diplomatic stuff.

"I didn't like anything about the film," she says. "I thought it was rather cowardly, in the sense that Austen wrote that she was a character nobody would like but herself. In the book, she's not allowed to go anywhere, whereas in the film she was doing archery and having a great life. They also inserted a lot of modern gags into it which is a bit of a cheap shot and shows you don't trust your material. Ours wasn't perfect by any means either. If you're really going to do it you should have hlackened teeth and no make up."

In yet another recent period piece she plays the busy-bodying Flora Poste in the entertaining Cold Comfort Farm, based on the Stella Gibbons novel.
Already shown on television bere, the Americans have been lapping it up at the cinema and it's about to be given a cinema release in Britain.

While this Beckinsale has made her name in worthy enterprises, her half-sister, Samantha, is best known for her role in London's Burning. The two met briefly in early childhood but didn't talk again until Kate was 21. "She got in touch and f was a bit nervous of meeting her because I wanted to get nn with her. f thought, 'What if she's horrible?' Luckily, she was really nice."

Now that they are both in the some profession. there have been farce-like scenarios of mistaken identity with cahhies. "I don't know how she experiences it but I often get people who are bitterly disappointed. Or the odd fan letter congratulating me on my performance in London's Burning.

Happily paired off with fellow actor Michael Sheen - "Is he the nne? I hope he is" - it seems unlikely Beckinsale will ever be troubled by her childhood traumas again. Not that she's complacent. "As soon as you think you've sorted it out. that's when you start falling downstairs a lot." Indeed, there's an unguarded moment of panie

before I leave. "Please don't let it be a 'what a tragic life f've led' article. I'm not living on an estate somewhere surrounded by crack addicts, pregnant, with no future. I've been very lucky."

Ah, so she's a classic swan? Still on the outside but paddling furiously underneath. She beams and scoops up the cat. "Yes, I like that."

'Cold Comfort Farm' goes on general release on

oncise as it was, Labour's manifesto this week did at least have three paragraphs headed Arts and Culture. The three paragraphs contained two firm commitments. One was a plan fornew "quality assurance in hotel accommodation" for tourists, which is, shall we say, somewhat lateral to cultural concerns. Indeed a hotel tax with money collected going to museums and galleries, an idea avoided in all the manifestos, might have rather more benefits for the arts, as it certainly does in

extremely astutely.

understands dressing up.

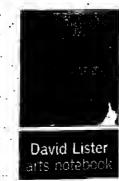
contemplate that? The other commitment is the establishment of a National Endowment for Science and the Arts to sponsor young talent. It will be partly funded by the lottery and partly by artists and scientists. who, in a new golden age of fivestar hotels for everyone, will be altruistic enough to leave the

other countries. Why do we never

profits of certain copyrights and patents to the next generation. The manifesto does not say

whose idea Nesta was. In fact, the central plank of Labour's arts policy emanates from Rory Coonan, once the head of architecture at the Arts Council and now a freelance adviser on design policy. So freelance in fact that he also advises Virginia Bottomley on architecture. Perhaps Rory's non-partisanship is one reason why no one on the Labour front bench has yetpublicly credited him with string

It was a different class of anorak that attended the National Film Theatre face-to-face with Nick Homby this week. The creator of the love, life and Arsenal Football Club story, Rever Pitch, had primed Club story, Fever run-himself for mestioning by fine-builts but found himself



confronting an audience of arthouse Arsenal supporters. How, asked one perturbed questioner, could a character be shown wearing an away strip in 1971 that did not yet exist? And, in a voice tempered with pity and disgust, another pointed out that an extra. on the terraces was drinking a can of Holsten Pils. What was cinematically wrong with that?



our rivals Tottenham. We wouldn't be seen dead drinking that." What a pity that House, the BBC

fly-on-the-wall documentary on the Royal Opera House, was not shot this year. Not only could it have contained the current triumphs of the Royal Ballet - I saw an American woman outside the Royal Opera House offering a "Because they are the sponsors of wad of notes for any seat to see

Darcey Bussell and Sylvie Guillem dancing together in La Bayadère, it could also have merged fly-onthe-wall documentary and sitcom, by focusing on the antics of the ROH's administration as it tries to avoid making clear what it is going to do with its companies. during the impending two-year

In short, a letter arrives from Keith Cooper, head of corporate

closure of the House.

Easter." The advantages of the fax machine are pointed out to him, but still no headline press statement or even downpage press statement arrives. In its stead, an invitation to a breakfast briefing last Wednesday with opera house chairman Lord Chadlington. This breakfast meeting is cancelled at around 8pm the night before. What are they trying to hide? Whatever it is, they failed. For the rather more efficient Barbican Centre innocently issues a press release detailing how the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet will perform at the Barbican Theatre during the Royal Opera House closure.

affairs, the day before Easter,

saying a "headline press

Marvellous news for Cliff Richard. His image is about to receive a much needed injection of street

cred. American evangelist Geoff Godwin, in Northern Ireland with a lecture tour called "The Hidden statement" will be mailed "before Dangers of Rock Music". Sadiy, his briefing documeots seem to stop at 1958. He told a Belfast audience this week that Sir Cliff led young people astray, and his life is built on money and adoration, even if some of his songs are not "overtly Satanic". Godwin adds that Sir Cliff sings "lusty lyrics" and makes hundreds of thousands of pounds from "adoring fans who idolise him and not God". Sir Cliff, who is currently in London playing Heathcliff in the not overtly Satanic musical, issued a statement through a spokesman saying: "Cliff believes everyone is entitled to their own opinion and he will answer to God." That statement presumably applies only to the current controversy and is not a riposte to the Heathcliff reviews.

# arts & books

# Personality by design

Red socks, Versace waistcoats, gold-buttoned tails - le style, as they say in France, est l'homme même. And this particular homme is one stylish pianist. Edward Seckerson meets Jean-Yves Thibaudet

tually. The elegant young man making his way to the Steinway grand is wearing red socks. He usually dnes. They've hecome something of a trademark, a porte-bonheur. As have the Gianni Versace waistcoats and sleek, gold-buttooed tails. He has an aristocratic air, a touch nf Versailles about him. But it's a friendly, modern face - aquiline nose, hlond, immaculately coiffed hair - that gratefully acknowledges the applause. "People need to know who you are," says Jean-Yves Thibaudet. Meaning that, in these days of corporate image-making, you're oever quite sure. But make no mistake, this is Thibaudet - the image, the wardrobe, the presentation, And catwalk nr concert platform, only one thing matters as he takes his seat at the keyboard. Now you notice his hands.

So how style-conscious is the playing? Very. But nut style-conscious as in narcissistic, superficial, precious. There is a ten-dency to characterise the French school of playing thus, which irritates Thibaudet nn end and may have something to do with his rejuctance to be labelled a "French pianist". He's nn thoroughbred in that respect, anyway, his mother being German (from Hamburg), his father French. But his principal studies did take place in Paris, his first teacher was Lucille Descaves, former assistant of Marguérite Long and a student nf both Fauré and Ravel, and he does feel part of that tradition. Descaves played the Ravel G major Concerto under the composer's own direction and was the prnud possessor of his precisely annotated scores. So wheo Thibaudet came to study this mu- many pianists can you say that of today? sic, the answers to all his questions - the key to unlocking its myriad colnurs - were there in black and white. The slow movement of the concerto was to be played "as simply as possible - a pure, singing line". Nn rubato, "no hutter in the sauce", as Poulenc might have had it (he, of course, liked plenty of butter in his sauce). And it was this clarity and transparency, this coolness of expression that came to typify the French sound. It's all in the pedalling, says Thibaudet. "Ravel was the most classical of French composers, much more restrained emotionally than, say, Poulenc, who

who abscured that detail by slamming down their foot. Debussy mixed his colours and his harmonies more - in that sense he was much more of an impressionist - but clarity is still the majur factor. Not dry, just clear." Limpid is a good word. Thibaudet's Decca recording of Ravel's solo piano mu-

sic is limpid. So, too, his Debussy.

It's this relating of sound to style, and vice versa, that is at the heart of all great pianism. "I know that the process is working when I'm no longer conscious of it working," says Thibaudet. "Brahms, for instance, has its own sound - a deep, warm, resonant, meaty sound. When you play Brahms, you feel your way much more deeply into the keys. With Ravel, you can ride the surface of the keys. A forte in Ravel is quite different from a forte in Brahms. Even 'Scarbo' [the most fiendishly virtuosic movement in all Ravel] is never really full-on. It plays all kinds of tricks on you. It comes and goes ... "

Rather like the so-called "golden age" of pianism. Did we really see its passing with the likes of Rubinstein, Horowitz and Cherkassky? Whatever happened to the great individualists? Or are we simply suc-cumbing to nostalgia here? Thibaudet thinks not. Rubinstein was for him "the complete artist", a man whose joie de vivre could be felt in every aspect of his playing. "He was typical of a whole generation where music-making was personal. Whether you liked them nr not, each nf these players had a strong identity of their own. I can put nn a record, and after nnly a couple of bars I can tell you who it is: they had a sound, these players, their sound. How

"You see, we live in a competitive age. Conservatnires train their students to win competitions, and in order to win competitings you can't be too personal. Because, in that situation, one judge will love you and another will very likely hate you. And that's a oo-win situation. So what we're really talking about here - if we're oot very careful -is a kind of 'standardisatinn', a whole generation of hrilliant musical robots."

One's miod goes hack to the 1980 International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, when Martha Argerich starmed off the jury after Ivo Pogorelich failed to make the final rounds. Maybe she had glimpsed

t's unlikely to be the hands you no-uce first but the feet. The socks, ac-meticulnus about detail; he hated pianists the future and didn't like what she saw? Maybe. Even so, young musicians like Maybe. Even so, young musicians like Thibaudet are determined to buck the trends. Take recording. It's time, he believes (and he assures me that he is not alone), tn make unly those recordings where there is a strong creative imperative (or catalogue need: the Khachaturian and Lowell Lieberman concertos are pending, for instance, and he'd like to record the Barber, the perfect coupling for the concerto Gian Carlu Menotti has promised to write for him). He wants to make "interesting" not "perfect" records. Even if there was such a thing as perfection (for "perfect" read "perfunctory"), the day an artist stops seeking answers to the big questions, questions he can never know all the answers to, then it's time to hang up the tails.

The night before our interview, Thibaudet and one of his regular chamber music partners, the vinlinist Joshua Bell, were at New Ynrk's Carnegie Hall rounding off a short US tour. And it was precisely the kind of "musical evolutioo" that truly collaborative musicians like this thrive on. "Every night you learn something about the pieces you play. Ynu try something different, you risk something new. Something in your attitude shifts, you come at the music from a slightly different perspective. It should be the same with records. You make the record nn Tuesday.

By Wednesday it is already different." And by Thursday - the record producer's nightmare.

But there speaks the live performer. Thibaudet enjoys making records - which he fancifully likens to "playing for friends" - but public performances bring out the showman in him. He loves an audience, a sense of occasion -- he loves (let's not hedge here) the limelight. Ask him who he'd choose for his imaginary one-to-one and I'll wager it would be Franz Liszt. He hasn't yet taken to leaving his gloves on the piano for the ladies (and geotlemen) to fight over, but I imagine he's working on it. Au-diences at the Met in New York may have witnessed something of a dry run last seasoo when he swept oo stage in Act 2 of Giordann's Fedora in the guise of the "celebrated Polish pianist Boleslao Lazinski". Judging from the untices he received. Mirella Freni and Placido Domingo should count their lucky stars he wasn't singing.



Whether he's playing Ravel or Bill Evans, Jean-Yves Thibaudet makes sure that people know exactly who he is

singers. "Ten years in any conservatory in the world won't teach you what you can learn from preparing a single recital programme with singers like Brigitte Fassbaender or Cecilia Bartoli. We pianists are forever trying to make an essentially percussive instrument sing. It's an illusinn mezzo Angelika Kirchschlager - in his trio nf Wigmore Hall concerts this month. The cellist Truls Mork joins him for the third concert - on the surface of it, a glorinus mismatch of personalities, the one shy and retiring, the other flamboyant. But they connect. And that's the point. Music is an interactive business. The word "accompanist" (don't even breathe it to Thibaudet)

is obsolete - and that's nfficial. And while we're about it, haso't "crossover" had its day, too? Thibaudet has a new album in the shops - the music of jazz pianist, Bill Evans - hut trust me, he

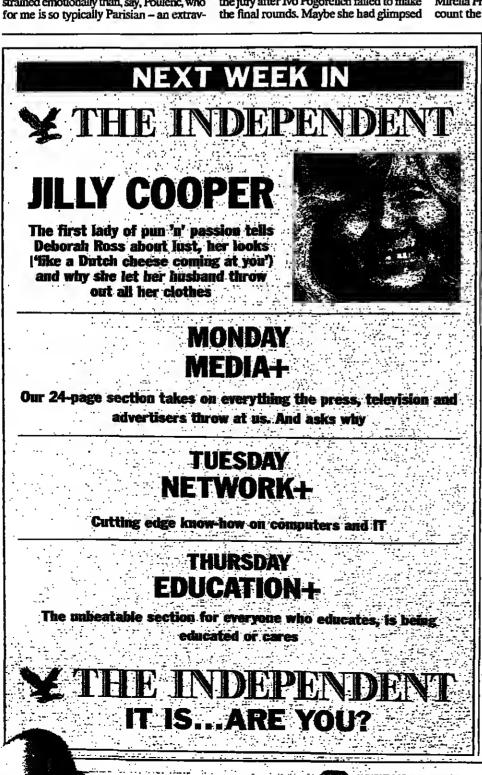
He has a "terrible voice", he adds re- hasn't "crossed over" in his life. "All muassuringly, but adores opera and reveres sic is related. All of it comes from essentially the same place. Look at Ravel and Gershwin. I've always loved jazz piano -Fats Waller, Art Tatum, Oscar Peterson, and Bill Evans, the most refined, the most 'classical' of them all. From time to time I've fooled around with jazz musician friends of mine in New York. It's great, it's at best, but by listening and playing for really liberating musically. So when nne singers, you can get closer than you ever of the Decca executives came in me and imagined." And because he is as good as said, 'You know, I was listening to your his word, he's including a singer - the Ravel recording the other night, and guess what it reminded me of , I knew. It's unbelievable how close some of Bill

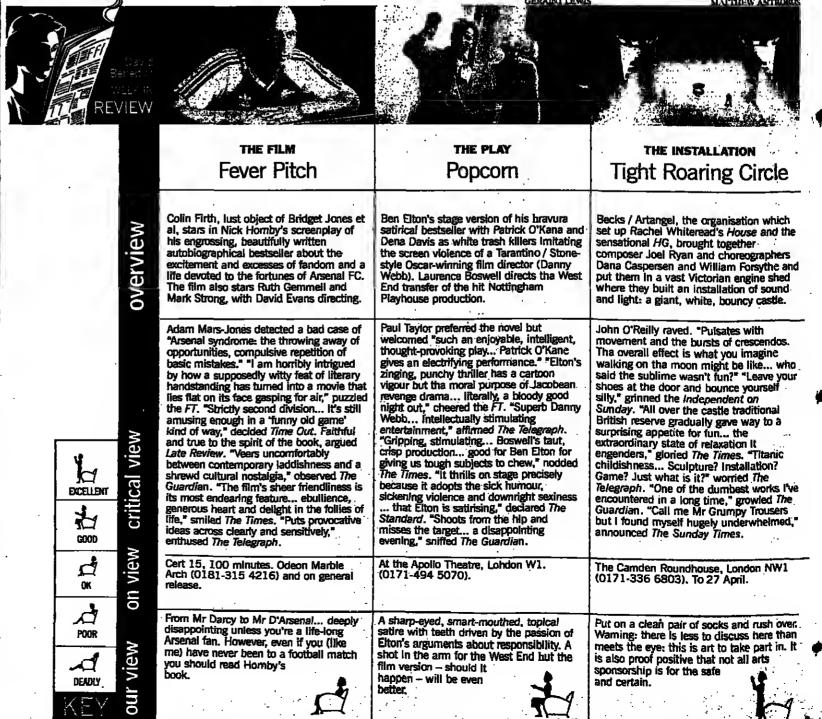
Evans's chords are to Ravel and Debussy." So the idea for the album was born. Thibaudet and his colleagues chose the material, made the arrangements, the hasic text serving as a "departure point" for each track, "The idea," says Thibaudet, "was not at all to imitate Bill Evans, but to find my own way to his pieces." The album's called Conversations with Bill Evans - because that's just what it is. "I'm oot a jazz pianist and I never will be. But, you know, it's amazing how this kind of work frees up your clas-

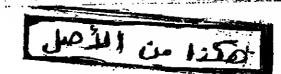
sical performances, Making this album really sharpened my perception of rhythm, in particular, because you can do whatever you want with rubato in this music, but that rhythmic heartheat cannot move."

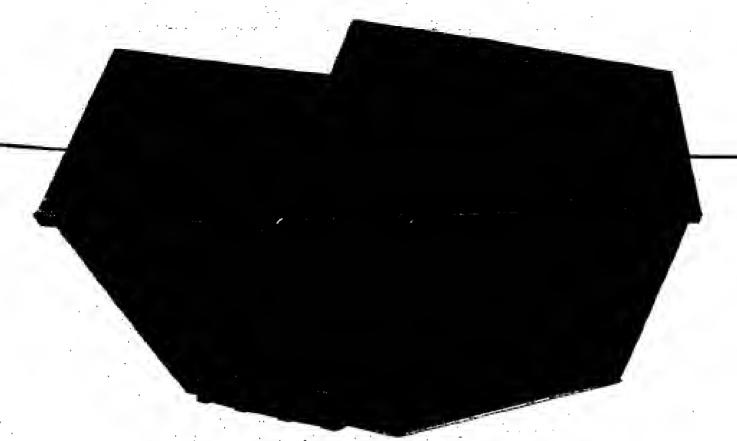
So not crossover, but cross-fertilisation. Thibaudct can't get enough nf it. "What we need now is more and more interactioo between the arts, just as they had in Paris at the time of Diaghilev.

To that end, he might well make music far some future Versace fashion show, just as next year in Ann Arbor, Michigan. there are plans for him to lend his pianistic impressionism to a retrospective of Monet's work. Heaven forbid he should make an exhibition of himself for less, Thibaudet at the Wigmore Hall: solo recital (Debussy, Chopin) 7.30 Tuesday; with Angelika Kirchschlager, mezzo-soprano (lieder by Strauss, Berg, Wolf. Gustav & Alma Mahler, Korngold) 7pm Sunday 13 April; with Truls Mork, cello (Brahms, Shostakovich, Rachmaninov) 7.30 Tuesday 15 April, Booking: 0171-935 2141 'Conversations with Bill Evans' is on the Decca label (CD 455 512-2)









# The object of seeing

A new exhibition at the Hayward celebrates the object in British art over the past two decades. A mirror, a skip and piles of dust – these are just a few of John O'Reilly's favourite things

remarked that in the modern world it is impossible to come across even the most natural object that has not somewhere been coded, packaged in such a way that our subsequent perception of it feels mediated. Can you think of sweetcorn without the Jolly Green Giant bumbling into your head or dream of surf without summoning up Old Spice? But however hard you tried, you could not have begun to imagine some of the objects on display in "Material Culture", the oew exhibitioo at London's Hayward Gallery.

The subtitle of the show is "The

Object in British Art of the 1980s and 1990s". With over 40 artists oo show, its range is extensive; from Richard Deacon and Rachel Whiteread, who as a famous artist called "Gavin Turk", make work that belongs to a tradition subverting the conventions that coinof sculpture, to Damien Hirst, whose fer aesthetic value-the context of the work owes as much of a debt to the gallery and the artist's signature. cology. It doesn't attempt to group the artists together in terms of generation or as representatives of a certain British style. One space, for lith in 2001. But perhaps the most disexample, contains Anthony Gonn- creet work is Christine Borland's ley's cast-iron Still Falling, a cocoonbody hanging like a massive turd from the ceiling. Beside this, and attached to the wall, is Damieo Hirst's striking, but comparatively restrained The Lovers - a cabinet containing jars of cow parts. And if Gormley's dense body demands to be spotlight directed at the glass leaves

creating a hallucinatory sense of depth where there is none. The show's curators, Michael Archer and Greg Hilty, have constructed a curious narrative of objects. As Archer explains: "There are mixtures of things, so you find echoes and refutations as you move from one gallery to the oext."

Take, for example, Tony Cragg's Spectrum - a jarringly pleasant rec-tangle of colourful, found plastic tat. It's laid on the floor right beside Gavin Turk's obscenely huge black skip, Pimp. Your initial impulse is to get a brush and pan, scoop up the bits of rubbish and stick them in the bin. It represents a continuation of hisearly work in which be masqueraded While Turk's shiny black streety

skip is a bold and brash pimp, Shiobtained their specimens by getting
razeh Houshiary's monumental black destitute people bumped off." Isthmus resembles the silent monospooky, ethereal, spectral From Life", Berlin. The piece consists of 21 glass panels inserted high on the gallery walls. On each panel, Borland has placed a group of bones (the hand, the spine etc), sprinkled them with dust and then removed them. A a negative trace of the bones on the looked at, Anish Kapoor's huge a negative trace of the bones on the Curved Mirror on an adjacent wall wall. This exhibit is the endpoint to

Barthes once completely distorts your vision, a body of work begun in 1991 when the artist worked with police detectives on a derelict site in Glasgow. She gathered material from the surroundings which was examined by forensic experts. The discarded hits and pieces told a story of the life and events of the people in the area. The results were displayed and discussed with visiting members of the public.

Fascinated by what detective-fiction fans call "procedure" and what artists call "process", Borland discovered by default that you could purchase real human booes and applied these methodologies to reconstruct the life of a skeleton. The skeletoo had completely lost all identity. It actually came from India and it was about the second last you could buy because they had begun an investigation there into how they were being obtained. It ceotury when early anatomists

Just as the fictional detectives in Barry Levinson's slice of verité-TV drama Homicide insist that their job is about giving a voice to the dead, letting them speak, so Borland's piece was about returning an identity to what had simply become a commodity, a product. Working at the University of Glasgow, Borland established that the skeletoo belonged to a 25-year-old Indian artefacts, From the Freud Muscum, woman. She theo went oo to seems to present a different reconstruct the head which became dilemma. When James Joyce



'Pimp' (above) and Anthony Gormley's 'Still Falling' (Inset)

turned out there was an exact paral- the focus of the work; the final lel to the situation here in the 19th piece was a bronze bust. "You are used to associating bronze busts with commemorating the great and good but this was trying to do that for a complete unknown."

The work at the Hayward was originally shown in an ahandoned factory in Berlin. "It's just a shadow that you could blow away. It relates to the fragility and vulnerability of the human situation and I felt dust was a fitting end." But if Borland's work is about letting the dead speak, Susan Hiller's collection of

referred to history as a nightmare. he was pointing out that the prohlem with the dead is not that they have been silenced, but that they oever shut up. The mixture of found objects, artefacts, relics and text in the cabinet sets off a string of interminable associations.

Moving through the gallery, you are faced with a mix of the startling and the unobtrusive. Cathy de Moochaux's Graft is quiet to the point of almost disappeariog. It seems strange to admit to being seduced and annoyed by a "thing". In the late 1980s, she produced lush objects constructed out of metals and velvet.

From a distance, Graft looks like a series of shelves that offers the promise of being functional, of having some purpose. But on closer inspection, the finely detailed metal and silk structure turns out to be a tease - just decorative DIY. De Monchaux admits life can make things difficult for artists. The invention of everything has speeded up. You can make Dolly the sheep or a mouse with an ear oo its back. I think it makes it harder and harder to make things." It's an disturbing thought, but judging from the strange fruit oo show at the Hayward. British artists have already marked out

'Material Culture': at the Hayward Gallery, London, SEI. Booking: 0171-960 4242. To 18 May

a space for the unlikely, the eccentric

and the improbably beautiful.

Becky Simpson, the 10-year-old actress who plays the 'idiot savant' Spoonface Steinberg



## You make a grown man cry

Robert Hanks talks to the heartstring tugging playwright Lee Hall

hen Spoonface Stein-berg was first broad-cast on Padia 4 cast on Radio 4 in January this year, the response was staggering: the BBC logged over 200 calls praising the play. demanding repeats, wanting to know if it was possible to buy it on tape. "I am a truck-driver," said one caller, keen to estab-lish his manly credentials, "and I was in tears." There were reports of drivers pulling in at the side of the road, too moved to be safe in traffic. More than two months later the author. Lee Hall, is still getting letters.

On the phooe from Newcastle. Hall is amazed: "It was a huge shock, because I was worried that people would think. 'What's this, a kid talking about cancer for an hour?" ... It's one of those things you can't legislate for."

For those who didn't hear it. Spoonface Steinberg was an hour-long monologue spoken by a seven-year-old autistic girl dying of cancer (an utterly unaffected performance by 10-yearold Becky Simpsoo). Spoonface is an idiot savant, able to multiply oumbers instantly or tell you the day of the week of any date io history. She talks with a mixture of wisdom, innocence and stoicism about her impending death, her pareots' fragile relatiooship, grand opera, Hasidic theology and a host of

other subjects. The degree of appreciation be; it also shows what you might may have astonished Hall, but not have guessed, how far his he must be getting used to mould-breaking plays are astonishment. His first radio informed by theatrical tradition. v. I Liv U was, like Spoonface, an eccentric, intellectually eclectic and emotionally frank work, this time about a small boy coping with his father's cancer - the twist being that Jimmy is a trainee angel.

It won him an Alfred Bradley Bursary, a Richard Imison Award, the Sony Award for best radio play of 1996, and a commission to write three more plays. (All his plays so far have been commissioned by the producer Kate Rowland, who

has been rewarded with promotion to head of radio drama for England.)

The four plays were broadeast through January under the general title God's Country. Whether the phrase refers to childhood, to death or to Hall's native Tyneside - themes common to all four plays - is open to question. "A little hit of all of them," Hall reckons, "I was always interested in this idea of Tyneside as a post-industrial place... when those heavy industries broke down, where that leaves us" - a theme that gained in weight when he lived abroad (these definitively Geordic plays were mostly written in Greenwich Village).

He was drawn to the idea of writing about children after working in youth theatres: "I was always fascinated by how, intellectually, the kids had such a grasp of the problems they were having. At their best, the plays have ao emotional power foreign to radio drama; at their worst, they

can verge on the mawkish. That's not the case with Hall's other broadcast play, Gristle, the grim story of a sol-dier returning from Northern Ireland with his genitals blown off. (Hall contrasts it with the comparatively light tone of his work about children and terminal disease.) Gristle shows how unsentimeotal Hall can Hinkemann, which Hall first encountered when reading English at Cambridge, Gristle is now scheduled for performance at the Gate Theatre in London.

Meanwhile, his first TV screenplay is about to start shooting; a film is planned of Jimmy Spud; Spoonface Steinberg is to be released on cassette; and the God's Country scripts are to be published in book form. Truck-drivers everywhere should have their hankies ready.

## Sweet Iullaby of death

CLASSICAL ECO / Harry Christophers Barbican Centre, London

f Harry Christophers' reputation was initially established through his work on early music with his choir, The Sixteen, he has proved to command a much wider range of styles, and he directed the English Chamber Orchestra in an impressive concert of 19th- and 20th-century French music at the Barbican Centre oo Wednes-

Immediately evident was his way with harmonic texture and orchestral sonority, and in Ravel's Le Tombeau de Couperin he drew from his players the most fastidiously weighted sound, frequently allowing the purely sonic quality of the composer's remarkable invention to make expressive points. Taking more than usually seriously Ravel's reflection of 18th-century keyboard music. Christophers avoided the romantic mannerisms that characterise some interpretations of the piece and generated a baroque rhythmic impetus. The Minuet might have been taken a little too hriskly for some tastes, but (werall this was a thoughtful and multidimensional performance reaching back in time rhythmically while acknowledging the floating sonorities of Ravel's 20th-century ear.

The quality of sensually graded sound continued to mark all that both Christophers and his orchestra did, whether in the pearly greys and silvers of Faure or the Gallic crispness of Saint-Saens. With his boldly imaginative approach to the arching lyricism of Fauré's Elégie, cello soloist Raphael Wallfisch found himself supported by an orchestral accompaniment of wide dynamic range (it was a joy to hear gravine pianissimos of palpable sonor-iry) and of pastel beauty. This was an interpretation to recall with pleasure, and it was the prehide to a vigorous

and elegantly shaped reading of Saint-Saëns's Concerto in A minor.

Urgent in expression, yet with the space to let the Minuer's uncanny recall of childhood innocence make its exquisite point, this was again a performance to cherish, and Wallfisch's sovereign technique brought Saint-Saëns's highly characteristic world superbly to life, touching in emotion yet unsentimental and graciously poised.

So far, so very good, yet the highlight of the programme was yet to come, for after the interval we heard a most moving and commandingly structured performance of Fauré's Requiem, one which had you searching your memory for an interpretation of comparable intensity and perfection of delivery in both the orchestral and choral forces. The Tallis Chamber Choir, with the

bright, edgy quality of their sopranos perfectly suited to the French repertory, and their firmly centred lower textures, served Fauré's movingly discreet and intimate vision perfectly. They rose to the work's few climactie moments with becoming vigour and for the rest sustained a calm intensity that did indeed evoke the "lullaby of death" envisaged by the composer. Baritone Michael George, although suffering from a throat infection, sang with style and warmth, and treble Connor Burrowes gave us a marvellous "Pie Jesu", stalwart in the face of audience coughing that threatened disruption. One recalled a Zubin Mehta story in which an irate listener rose to his feet under similar circumstances and shouted: "This is a concert hall, not a sanatorium."

Anthony Payne

## Casualties of the classification wars

THEATRE The Censor / Surfing Finborough Theatre, London

nthony Neilson earned himself the within a red neoo frame, Neilsoo's finely British Theatre" with works like Penetrator, a black, tense comedy about the kind of homophobia that is the twisted product of repressed homosexual desires. That play, with its mamacal, knife-wielding squaddic and his horrific tales of systematic thuggery and non-consensual buggery in the ranks, prompted one commentator to write that, while he was no fan of censorship, here was "a case for self-censorship". Cut to Mr Neil-son's latest drama, which focuses on a film censor and his relationship with a young female director who wants him to pass ber hard-core movie.

In Blue Murder, Peter Nichols recently produced a sharp comedy that presented the old Lord Chamberlain's office, in its last days in 1967, as a farcical hotbed for precisely the kind of shenanigans and language it blue-pencilled in plays. But the piece wound up contending that the removal of censorship has been bad for artists, because restrictions are para-

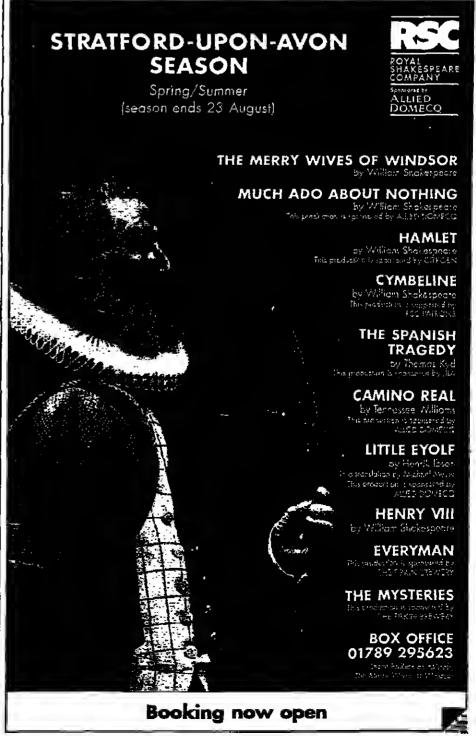
doxically freeing (a proposition surely truer, though, of form than of content). Neilson's The Censor homes in on a situation that might itself be the basis of a porn movie. Young, repressed, anally reteotive, unhappily married Scots censor (an excellent Alastair Galbraith) is confronted by Miss Fontaine, a disconcertingly composed, attractive and implacable female director (Raquel Castrousers. So far, so standard porn set-up. But Miss Fontaine assures us that these

relentless sexual activity in her film. Played behind prophylactic gauze and

title "Bad Boy Controversialist of judged production, with its long, loaded pauses, brings out all the comic tension and intensity in the couple's engagements - counterpointed by short scenes of marital misery between the censor and his faithless wife. But, as the censor himself says, it's impossible to imagine Miss Fontaine anywhere except in his office. If her reality weren't apparently vouched for in the end, you'd be tempted to interpret her as the fantasy projection of a man who has had to watch too much sex in coldly anatomical terms and who is over-compensating with a daydream woman who can see entire CVs in the sex act. "Could you tell that man's previous girlfriend was Asian and that the woman was brought up in care?" Easy-peasy, I'm

sure, if you know what you're looking for. On the same bill as The Censor is Robert Young's Surfing, a funny and mountingly touching piece about a young jilted woman who, messing around with her ex-lover's computer, stumbles accidentally upon, and then into, his E-mail correspondence with another female friend. Pretending to be him, she starts communicating via the Internet with this unknown quantity and is eventually drawn into collaborating oo erotic fantasy stories. This virtual relationship develops into an intuitively quasi-lesbian romance which, though the pair never meet, survives the discovery that oeither is what the other believed. In Lisa Goldsidy). She's determined to change his man's staging, Lizzie McPhee plays both, mind about banning her film and, to that skilfully shifting between eager oorthern end, soon has her busy hands down his openness and the refined heartache of maturity on a computer-screen set that resembles a dinky swimming pool.

come-ons are also part of a more philo—To 26 April: "Surjing' 7pm, The Censor' sophical mission to make the censor see 8.30pm, Finborough Arms, 118 Finborthe "deeper human meaning" in the ough Rd, London SW10 (0171-2871231)



### Stephen Howe asks if Britain boomed on the backs of slaves

The Making of New World Slavery: from the Baroque to the Modern, 1492-1800 by Robin Blackburn, Verso, £25

lavery remains more uniquitous in memory and culture than any other historical crime or tragedy. In recent weeks, we have seen Bernie Grant MP making passionate calls for the site of a slave ship's wreck to be made a national memorial and linking this discovery to his campaign for slaves' descendants to be paid reparations. Jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis has just given the London premiere of Blood on the Fields, a musical history of slavery in the US. The flow of imaginative treatments ranges from Alex Haley's Roots and its influential TV adaptation to novels by Toni Morrison and Caryl Phillips. Only the Holocaust, which still remains within

living memory, arouses such deep emotion.

It is a particular kind of slavery that continues to haunt us: the enslavement of Africans by Europeans in the New World hetween the 15th and 19th centuries. Almost all societies have at some time had some form of slavery. The greatest overview, Orlando Patterson's Slavery and Social Death, enumerates more than 100 polities, ancient and modern, that were decisively dependent on it. New World slavery and the transatlantic trade that fed it, though, were unique in their scale and prohably their harshness. They were intertwined with racial ideologies that still poison every society they affected. And they transformed four continents - North and South America, Africa and Europe - as a central part of the hirth of the modern world.

Yet this vast theme has not, for decades, had a com-prehensive treatment. Nearly all modern research deals with particular slave societies - above all the southern US. Almost no one has had the skills or nerve to survey the entire, ocean-wide, centuries-long process, treating the English, Freoch, Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish and other Atlantic slave systems together. Robin Blackburn's book triumphantly fills this gap. He has been working backwards: in his 1988 book The Overthrow of Colonial Slavery, be surveyed the eod of the British, French aod Spanish slave systems. Now he delves back to their birth.

The breadth of knowledge this requires is intimidating enough. Yet more difficult is the question of tooe. Much of the cultural afterlife of slavery involves the kind of emotioo-ladeo "memory" which is at odds with accurate reconstruction. The uneasy hybridity between history and fiction in Haley's Roots or (on a higher level) Mor-Foolisb and sometimes repugnant controversies bave ensued over issues such as the role of Jews in the slave trade - in reality, minuscule. So have wild claims about numbers, with some African-American writers asserting that 200 million Africans were enslaved or killed and that any lower estimate is a racist evasion. (As if the real total of 12 to 15 million victims were not terrible enough.)



between those who stress the sadism and suffering of Atlantic slavery, and those who emphasise the trade's careful business rationality. The story of slavery from one aspect resembles that of Anschwitz; from another, it is

part of the history of entrepreneurship.

Blackburn bandles all this coolly. There is oo downplaying of the borrors, but there is none of the didacticism - and little of the Marxism - one might expect from the editor of New Left Review. His most important and disturbing argument is that the evils of slavery were oot rison's Beloved is symptomatic. Slavery intersects with various bitter contemporary disputes, especially in the US. mainly produced by state action, but by a mass of indiius bitter contemporary disputes, especially in the US. the enslavement of Africans from the start, remarkably

few of those involved seem to bave had moral qualms. Blackburn traces not only the way the trade developed, hut the ideologies that justified it. This involves one of history's great chicken-and-egg questions. Did European

Leaving such excesses aside, a division has opened ideas? He rejects an either/or answer, but underlines that both anti-black prejudices and supposed hiblical justifications for slavery long preceded the Atlantic trade.

Such views were always contested. Blackburn therefore adds another disconcerting reflection: that slavery was avoidable. Both economic alternatives to its spread and moral critiques of its mjustice were fully available at the time it became most extensive and brutal. New World slavery was central to the development of global modernity, but it need not have been so.

Slavery was, he believes, crucial to the emergence of modern capitalism as well. Economic historians have tended to suggest that slavery and colonialism were marginal to Britain's 18th-century prosperity and the Industrial Revolution, but Blackburn strongly argues that British industrialisation was decisively advanced by the exploitation of slave labour. So it might be thought a kind of poetic justice that many of the trade's products - tobacco, heliefs in Africans' natural inferiority arise to legitimate sugar, rum - damaged the health of European consumers enslavement, or was slavery made possible by prior racist even as they destroyed the lives of African producers.

## Middle England's family plot

Patrick Gale hears skeletons rattle as closet doors creak open

in a Land of Plenty by Tim Pears, Doubleday, £16.99

now is larger, however - a state-of-the-

He begins in 1952, when Philistine industrialist Charles Freeman woos, beds and weds Mary, an unworldly poet. Charles grows ever fatter and richer, Mary ever more distraite and alienated. They have four children. Simon is his father in duplicate, or at least seems that way as he follows him into the swelling family business. James rebels and becomes a reclusive photographer. Simon dabhles in used cars and hobnobs with their town's criminal fraternity. Alice betrays her early academic promise, dwindling into selfsatisfied marriage to a local property magnate. By the novel's close, most have survived the Eighties, but suicide, murder, madness and market forces have polished off the rest.

Pears is wilfully schematic, his purpose broadly signposted. The novel is set in an imaginary heart-of-England city in an archetypal "big house on the hill" which comes to represent the characters' besieged ideals and hopes for a hrighter future. The family Freeman the name carries a whiff of allegory is extended by marriage, love and kinship so as to encompass most aspects of late-20th-century Britain.

Alternative culture is vividly represented by cousin Zoe, the bookish hippy who ends up galvanising her grandmother's cinema as an artistic oasis, a thriving business and a focus for protest politics. Alice marries a brother's Pakistani classmate, who proceeds to exact a discreet economic revenge on the family that once snubhed him. She moves into the household of a lesbian friend from university, who tries to bully Simon out of his capacious closet. The cook's daughter is raised as Alice's sister, thus linking the family by marriage to the gardener's West Indian brother-in-law and so on.

We encounter beatnik poetry, flower power, industrial action, the women's movement, Thatcherism, Greenhamstyle protest, foodyism, a rave, drugs, voluntary single motherhood, alternative medicine, two recessions, a good a motor as any for powering a

There is a faintly emharrassed plea-

im Pears made his striking dehut with In the Place of Fallen Leaves, an evocation of a pastoral girl-hood almost Proustian in its fine detail. In a Land of Plenty displays a similar balance of historical and psychological clarity against nostalgia. The purpose pow is larger, however—a state-of-thecharacters' ability to develop with much verisimilitude.

Novelists' strengths are often best illustrated when they battle against such self-imposed restraints as a convoluted time scheme or an insensitive narrator. And Tim Pears's humanity is irrepressible. For him, 40 years of British history is little more than an unwieldy plot device. What plainly fascinates him, as with In The Place of Follen Leaves, is the unpredictable dynamics of a family and the domesticated tyrannies that hold it together while threatening to break its members' spirits, Terrible things happen, rifts are opened, blood is shed, but the family heals its wounds (or dangerously chooses to ignore them) and, hydra-like, grows new limbs.

Pears's political allegory is most successful in this area. It shows a family, like a nation, suffering blow after blow. surviving, because that is all families and nations can do, and, with the pas-sage of healing time, coming to refashion those blows as intimate folklore.

Charles Freeman is a wonderful creation, as memorable a monster as Nancy Mitford's version of Lord Redesdale. Huge in every sense, he cheerfully tramples on wife and children with a glass of claret in one hand and a chequebook in the other. His wife is a delight as well. A ravishingly beautiful manie depressive, she will amuggle the children out of school one day to enjoy an illicit seaside jaunt or to stand io the rain admiring rainbows, then retreat for days on end writing fevered poetry behiod a locked door.

It is a pity that Pears does not lavish equal attention on each of the children. Evidently he was half-way into the Sixties when he realised economies would have to be imposed if the book was not to become a leviathan. We see nothing, therefore, of the thoughts of Robert, the dark destroyer of the piece. and Pears seems similarly fearful of entering the minds of Simon, the bluff, camp eccentric - who is played chiefly for laughs - or of Natalie the lodger, a stereotypical dyke.

The emotional and oarrative weight comes to lie with James, not least boom, a bankruptcy - even a charac- because we know that something horter in a persistent vegetative state. This rendous is going to befall him. His is is a family to which everything happens. the subtlest portrait because it makes And why not? Cultural history is as no attempt to charm. It's an acute delineation of the dissatisfaction and insecurity to which so many middle children are heir, and a moving hiogsure in recognition - be it of one's child- raphy of an oddball not-quite-artist.

## Independent choice:

## Fiction's coming home By Chris Savage King

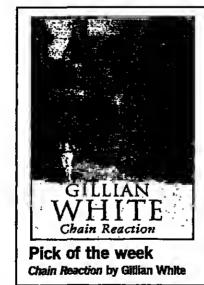
pring is heralded in publishing by an Soutbreak of novels with watercolour covers and mild titles. Their themes are downbeat: divorce; bed death; have we done the hest thing for the children?; is that all there is? The implied effect is of a soothing pastille, hnt these products are not indistinguishable.

Gillian White's Chain Reaction (Orion, £16.99) is structured in segments, using the hright idea of a house-buyers' chain. Assorted locales and very different lives collide as everyone relocates. There's Irene, a feisty pensioner about to be turfed into an old people's home with the help of a daughter who talks like a government form. Joy and Vernon are pillars of neat Eighties aspiration, until one is driven to murder. The Middletons are an unassuming brood until their son is done on a trumped-up rape charge. In her anatomy of criminal injustice and media hysteria, White is impassioned, but never lets up on satire.

A bunch of aristocrats and their flunkies are juxtaposed with a vegetating rock star and his tough rock chic, Belle. Chain Reaction draws clever comparisons between status-led dynasties, and the culpability of new and old wealth. In her poignant and hilarious portrait of the adorable nitwit Arabella, and Janice the "subnormal" rape victim, White illustrates bow irregularity is fiercely policed in the poor hut allowed to run free among the privileged.

She has a remarkable empathy with a rich cast of characters. Her broad but sure brushstrokes are stingingly accurate. Melodramatic, and with a generous sweep. Chain Reaction doesn't deserve its dreary cover: a Next Casuals woman walking away from a mansing. It's as if the publishers bave acquired a bot property whose true worth is completely lost on them.

> **NEW AUTHORS** PUBLISH YOUR WORK ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED



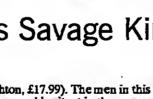
Deborah Moggach's Close Relations (Heinemann, £15.99) focuses more traditionally on the middle classes in crisis. A formulaic tale of three sisters is given a brisk respray of modernity. So Dad gets beart trouble and responds by taking up with a young black nurse. Grandpa and grandson -with their new friends - bump into each other at The Fridge. Maggie, the tomboy of the trio, has a lesbian awakening, and the spinster sister - a backneyed archetype gets her married lover's joh.

Moggach is a capable example of English fine writing, if that's what you like. While she can achieve poetic resonance, her tendency is to pull herself together and trip along into a breezier style. She often reverts to shorthand: streets are like "a Frank Capra movie", a bunky blacksmith is "Lawrentian", while the sisters - inevitably - are "Chekhovian".

For all the contemporary whiz, the novel's conclusion is strangely nid-fashioned. The women finish pretty well as they started, living in a Ninenes commune. Most of the men are philandering scoundrels of caddish or "weak" hues. It's prohably time for writers to come up with a new angle on the "all men are bastards theme", beyond the

adultery dirge.

Male domestic fiction comes in the form of Adrian Mourby's The Four of Us (Hodder



& Stoughton, £17.99). The men in this novel are hlustery and hesitant in the expression of their sexual urges. David, a kindly academic, is married to Helena - deeply into ber children, and God, and with a fondness for Edwardian nightgowns. Enter the exuberant Millie, a mean wielder of an electric drill. and prone to hearty exclamations. She's the kind of mate in a skirt that a certain type of Englishman finds a merciful relief from the troubling mysteries of womanhood.

There's a bit of bed-hopping and some worrisome complications about careers and loyalties, but essentially this is a celebration of the good life, which remains so. It's a chamber piece, and the tone is autumnal. But Mourby manages some nice epiphanies on nature and mortality.

A twilight love story set in an old people's home is certainly an unusual idea. This isn't the gruesome place Irene in Chain Reaction is headed for, though. In Zita Adamson's Second Chances (Sceptre, £17.99) The Pines is more like a hotel, with "a drawing-room rather than a TV lounge" and nice young women on hand to fix your bair.

Claire meets Peter. They go for walks, they go to a music festival. Romance blooms, sort of. Claire acts with all the tremulousness of an Anita Brookner heroine on tranquillisers. The fey snobbery and the strained gentility are flecked with unintentional burnour: "He had nice teeth, sbe noticed. Straight and almost certainly his

Dictionaries of physical frailty, Claire and Peter have a miserable marriage apiece behind them; you cannot beip but wish them well. But there comes a point when you also wonder if Zita Adamson has confused the evocation of tedium with the thing itself, and begin to ponder the futility of sentences that : "It had rained the previous day as well

as the day before that ..."

Is there no end to laborious realism? Only Gillian White in Chain Reaction shows any awareness that novels should be about anything else except writing stuff down and giving it a shape. There is something doughtily British about this spring collection. You don't enter a different dimension, you aren't transported, you aren't required to think - you just sit down and have a cup of

## The brooder of suburbia

#### Michael Arditti sinks into an indigo mood

The title of a book may no more Love in a Blue Time by Hanif indicate its content than its Kureishi, Faber & Faber, £8.99 cover. Yet by calling his first collection of short stories Love In A Blue mapping out a territory midway between Love In the Time of Cholera and Love In A Cold Climate - marrying Marquez's depiction of a decaying culture to Nancy Mitford's tart exploration of British mores.

Kureishi's eye for the zeitgeist is as sharp as ever (although its blind spot is an irritating tendency to define people by decades). With his finger on the pulse of society - and the rest of his hand on more intimate parts of the anatomy - he extends the themes of romantic, racial and cultural alienation familiar from his previous work. Three of the stories centre on Asian experience in post-war Britain, two of these on the mixedrace families familiar from The Buddha of Suburbia. "We're Not Jews" is a persussive account of racism both overt and ingrained, and "With Your Tongue down My Throat" a crosscultural variant on the classic plot of twins divided at birth. The third story, "My Son the Fanatic", is a com-

pelling portrait of a taxi-driver's despair as his son is lost to Islamic fundamentalism. Faced with the boy's mindless attack on his Western values (symbolised by

a fondness for pork pies), the father betrays his principles and fights back. Apart from "The Tale of The Turd", an Irvine Welsh-like scatalogical fantasy of disrupting a middle-class meal, the stories focus on male-female relationships. To judge by those depicted, the titular colour is not lapis lazuli but an inky hluehlack. The gulf between the sexes is

self and accompanies his wife to an Time, Hanif Kureishi appears to he antenatal class. Other husbands casually hit their wives as they reach orgasm, work at nights to avoid them, cheat on them, or simply run off. Elsewhere, the inevitable death of passion compels a couple to commit their love-making to film.

Lord of the flyblown: Hanif Kureishi

The story which best epitomises the collection is "Nightlight", in which a man whose world is disintegrating has sex once a week in n basement with a woman he interviewed for a job. They meet without drink or music (always a vital force in Kureishi's world), harely able to see each other and never speaking each other's names. As soon as she leaves - in a cab she has kept wait-

ing - he starts to masturbate.

This lack of connection is typical hridged only in the first story, "In a of Kureishi's protagonists. Several

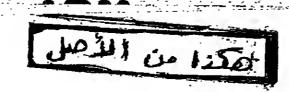
in work, the majority are thirtysomething media types at the bullshit end of the artistic spectrum: com-mercials directors, TV scriptwriters, photographers. Their work is secondrate and second-hand: the director repackages Bergman or Fellim; the scriptwriter expropriates an Asian girl's experience; the photographer snaps the couple having sex. Only the drug dealers enjoy joh satisfaction,

making their deliveries as routinely as milkmen.

The most powerful expression of this spiritual malaise is the final story, "The Flies", an absurdist fable with shades of Sartre and Kafka that portrays the pestilential forces of late-20th-century life and in particular the cloying commitments of marriage and domesticity, as a plague of ravaging insects. Otherwise. apart from an unnecessarily obfuscating narrator in "With Your Tongue Down My Throat". Kureishi eschews literary devices in favour of direct statement and uncluttered narrative. The result is prose which bas immense immediacy but lacks resonance.

In one of his rare analytical passages, Kurcishi comes close to encapsulating his theme when Laura, a disillusioned drummer, despairs of a

London "full of drugged, useless people who didn't listen to one another but merely thought all the time of how to distract themselves". With a disarmingly light touch, he highlights some of our major dilemmas: how to prevent our post-Sixties freedom degenerating into hedo-nism; bow to maintain both our sense of ourselves and our commitment to others, and how to maintain personal and social morality without resorting to the fundamentalist fal-lacy. By his unblinking, unblinkered Blue Time", where Roy, a would-be are unemployed, while able to afford wimess, he makes a forceful contri-film director, discards his adolescent a rich pharmaceutical life. Of those bution to our fint-de-xiècle dobate.



ons rattle

Old mash or crisp fries? Oliver Taplin seeks the perfect recipe for serving up Homer's epic voyage to modern

readers



Nausicaa, princess of the Phaeacians, who in Book VI of the Odyssey meets the shipwrecked Odysseus while doing the washing with her maids. She helps him, introduces him to het parents and even hopes to wed him - but he soon sets sail again MARY EVANS PICTURE

# Tasting the tang of the surf

The Odyssey by Homer, translated by Robert Fagles, Viking, £25

owards the close of Derek piece Omeros, the spirit of Homer appears in the narrator and shows him the golf-course Alexander Pope sliced heroic coupdevelopers and their like tormented lets. So is it? in the valcanic sulpbur pits of St Lucia, like the damned souls in Dante's Inferno. The Walcott-oar- to spot-check a single passage rator admits that he hasn't read the epics properly ("Fnrget the gods!"
Omeros growls, "and read the sampling a potato cooked by each rest"), but then breaks into a mut- -it may be unrepresentative, but it boy/your oame was as wide as a bay, plucked three lines from the scene as I walked along the curied brow where Phenius, the resident poet of the surf ... Master, I was the on Ithaca, has been singing about the troubles the Greeks have had

That is the point: Homer always has fresh readers. Every generation days one seems to come every five years. According to George Steiner, in his excellent Penguin anthology nf Homer in English, there have beco a dozeo complete English Homers since the War.

Many of Hnmer's major translators have had a gn at both epics, nearly always the Iliad first, and in nearly every case critics have rated the Odvssey less successful. Robert Fagles published his Iliad in 1990, yet this new Odyssey seems to me

its high quality. Like his Iliad, it comes in a beautifully produced hardback, with a superb introduc-Walcott'a poetic master- hardback, with a superb introductinn by Bernard Knox. It is marketed as the best thing since

> test a new translation, and that is sings most newes. getting home from Troy.

Penelope, whose husband has needs a new translation, but these still, of course, not made it, is upset. She tells Phemius to choose something else from his repertoire. But the young Telemachus takes. issue with his mother. His rehuke includes the three lines which, as literally as I can manage, say:

"It is no reason to be indignant with him that he sings of the bad fate of the Danaoi, because people. always praise more whatever snng comes round its listeners as the

The only translator I know whn be served in the shape of a swan,

to be remarkably consistent, not produced an Odyssey radically dif-noly in metre and tone, but also in ferent from his *Iliad* was the first. Robert Chapman's Itiad (1598smoother, 10-syllable lines:

Nor is this man to blame that the repaires/ The Greeks make homeward sings, for his There is only noe way, I think, to fresh Mose/ Men still most celebrate that

The word-order may be strained; but applying the potato test, I love the sense of a prolific vegetable never tasted before, straight from tered rhapsody: "When I was a can be very revealing. I have Sir Walter Raleigh's sea chest. The two Restoration versions by John as Stemer rightly says, "Pope's main detractors have been those who have not read him". But Pope's Odvssey (1725) is a pot-boiler, and our sample caught him (or one of his assistants) nn a bad day:

> Nor blame severe his choice./ Warbling the Grecian woes with harp and wice! For novel lays attract our ravish'd cars/ But old, the mind with inattention hears.

As well as the warbling harp, the inattentive line is mere padding to fill nut the couplet. This dish may

the inventive artifice of Pope. Like claims "I have omitted nothing; I have invented nothing":

No fault is his, if the disastrous fatel He from the beavers most applause/ That has

bad). The most telling turn was the highly popular Odyssey of Butcher and Lang (1879) and the Iliad of Lang, Leaf and Myers (1882 - onte the roll-call surnames). These are in the prose nf the Authorised Version; Homer becomes an bonorary member of the Established Church.

The reactions against this style in the first half of the 20th century were nearly all translations into plain adventure-oovel prose: WHD Rouse, IA Richards, TE Shaw (manly initials, now).

All of these are, in their different ways, British institutional cook-

but in fact it is made of old mash. ing, whether clerical, military, par-William Cowper produced his liamentary nr academic, boiled translation "into English Blank until all the flavour is gone. The Verse" (1791) in reaction against culmination is the best-selling Penguins of EV Rien (1946-50), which a wholemeal bread advert, Cowper now read like a contribution to the

post-war ration-book ecocomy: We cannot blame Phemius if he chooses to sing of the Danaans' tragic fate, for it is always the latsing of the Achanos, for the soug/ Wins ever est song that an audience applauds the most."

Something worthy came, at last, from the US in the third quarter of That last, lame phrase is baked the century. In the cootest between spud with no butter.

The 19th century, supposed to be the great age of classical education the great age of classical education the great age of classical education fitzgerald's pungent blank verse, Ogilby and Thomas "Leviathan" in Britain, produced no great many would agree with Steiner Hobbes were eclipsed by the scinHobbes were eclipsed by the scinHomers (though William Mnrris's that Lattimore wins for the Iliad, Fitzgerald's Odyssey (also done first) is triumphant. Lattimore has a certain lilt, like a touch of mint:

> There is nothing wrong in his singing the sad return of the Dansans./ People, surely, always give more applause to that song/ which is the latest to circulate among the lis-

But Fitzgerald is unbeatably crisp

Here is no reason for reproof: to sing the news of the Dansans! Men like best a song that rings like morning on the air.

but with a truffle garnish. The I am not clear that Fagles is my morning simile is added, and is more Irish, perhaps, than Homeric.

Robert Fagles is from the same school as Lattimpre and Fitzgerald - an lvy-League professor whn is also a poet. I think he is consciously concerned in be more easy-going than Lattimore, but more conscientious than Fitzgerald:

Arrives' barsh fate?/ It's always the latest song, the one that echoes last/ in the listeners' ears, that people praise the most.

reproach into a question works men/ will appland most eagerly whatever well. It is the kind of stylistic turn song/ falls freshest on the listening ear. gies likes: the most obvious is his use of repetition, as in "nthers, so many others, died there too", a few lines after this passage.

The colloquialisms, such as "it's" and "people" are no problem in my ear, though "the latest song" may be a bit close in the cliche of "the latest hit". Pulling in the other direction are the slightly quaint touches such as "bard" or the plural "ears". And "that echoes last" is unhappily ambiguous. The metre is fluent and speakable, but tends in boil down to blank verse with the odd extra syllable to make it hop. Golden, crispy, low-fat fries?

So, perfectly good though it is, "hest buy" rather thao Walter Shewring, published in Oxford's Worlds Classics series in 1980. One reason why this translatioo has attracted less attention than it should is that it is printed as crowded prose on small pages with poor paper. Prose would seem to be a fundamental betrayal of Homer, but Sbewring's is a crafted, musical, lustrous prose. Suppose that it came on fine paper and arranged in lines, like this:

It's good. Making Telemachus's Danaans, that is in no way blameworthy for

The turns of phrase are deft: "sings of the sorrows", "applaud most eagerly", and, above all, "whatever song falls freshest" - so much more dewy than "the nne that echoes last". I would give Shewring to the freshest of Homer's readers.

Facles' translation puts me in mind of an executive jugging in Central Park, It is fit, fluent, confident, urbane - and routine. In the era of Harrison, Heaney and Walcott, I yearn for an Odyssey that paces - and sometimes runs along an unspoilt sea shore by "the curled brow of the surf".



▲ The graffiti of my mind tell me that Hughes is a Satanic Majesty .... 7



4... and Heaney is Pope Seamus, making the sick whole again 7

## Sorted for whiz

Robert Crawford flies high with the Pope and the Crow

The School Bag edited by Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes, Faber & Faber, £20 hardback; £12.99 paperback

with its tangerine and blue cover, this anthology has an acid-housey look to it. "Expect raving poets," seems to be the message—"here be visions." On the whole, this is just what the book, a follow-up to Heaney and Hughes's 1982 gathering The Rattle Bag, delivers. Especially in its npening sections there is a constant sense of voyaging into the Other, of poetry as a powerful form of alien abduction.

The juxtaposition of poems encourages this luxurious lightheadedness. So Marianne Moore'a "A Grave", ending neither with volition nor consciousness" tips the reader into the hallucinatory aquarium of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "The Ancient Mariner". Poetry at school has seldom been so dangerous.

Some teachers, finding this volume in their pupils' schoolbags, may be a little bothered. It has scant introduction, and no contextual ootes. It tells you the poet's name and the date of the poem, then lets you get on with things. Through there are significant groupings of poems in the anthology, dealing with such topics as love, oature, drink and loss, you have to work out what these groupings are because nn signposts are given. What's here is just poetry - take it or leave it.

This is poetry the way poets like it. It isn't translated into explanation or weighed down by managerial prose. Like the ocean, it just is. So the reader has to navigate as well as he or she can among 600 pages of swirling waves set up by these two masters. The poems (only one by each poet) are set ont in complete defiance of chronology and geography, so that part of the reading experience involves casting nneself on the waters, allowing noeself tn.

go with the flow. This is a fine experience for those with an inclination for poetry, but many pupils, teachers and other readers may find themselves nut of their depth. Being at sea is a good thing, and a powerfully educative experience. Yet it is the hardest thing to justify in terms of the National Curriculum. What is evident even in the book's title, and in Heaney's page-long foreword, is a tension between this book's function as as an anthology for everyday use in schools ("Take out your books, class") and the sense in which it is an instrument for the schooling of poets ("Sing, Muse!").

The editors haven't sought to resolve that tension. This means that what they have produced looks in one way like a very nidfashioned schoolbook whose poets are

occasionally elderly, but nearly always dead. In another way, it looks like a wonderful text for an advanced creative writing class. where all the readers will respond to the stimulating imaginative patterns that Heaney and Hughes have set up. They rearrange and disrupt the canon so that the translated Gaelic of Cathal Bull Mac Giolla Ghunna precedes the Scots of Burns's "Tam o' Shanter", and Ezra Pound meets the Great Silkie of Skule Skerrie.

Whoopee! This unresolved tension between poetry for schools and a school for poets makes it hard to see The School Bag taking over secondary classrooms. It is too quirky, and demands too much imaginative effort. Yet, if the test of a good anthology is the low number of duds it contains, then Hughes and Heaney score virtually 100 per cent. This is a very high-voltage book, crammed with poetic intensity, and edited with a flair that allows Dylan Thomas's "Fern Hill" to graze against Sorley MacLean's "Hallaig".

The presence of translated Gaelic, Old English and Welsh material alongside poems in Scots and in English from Britain, Ireland, America, Canada and Australasia (but not Africa or India) is richly revealing. There is still a sense of England as the principal wellspring, but

nne that has been magnificently defiled and enhanced by other languages and other national traditions.

The graffiti of my mind tell me Hughes is a Satanic Majesty, the Bard of Crow, whose manners are tearing off heads; Heaney is Pope Seamus, making the sick whnle again with a benign yet demanding twinkle. Hughes's England is deep and pikey; Heaney's Ireland mixes bog and aerial shinings. Yet each is a poet who has tried to remake himself, and who has kept up a sense of poetry as an exploratory medium. A sense of energetic and continual realignment permeates this book, creating something of a daze in the reader, but a good, vatic daze.

Nationality and chronology blur as Alexander Pope is followed by John Berryman, yet throughout one is aware both of nations and of castings adrift from them. The Poet Laureate's sense of the sea-girt isle meets the corracting

imagination of the Irish bard. Hardly any other anthology can be trusted to deliver the poetic goods as reliably or as riskily as this one. Yes, the editors were right to include William McGonagall's immortal poem about "the Railway Bridge of the Silv'ry Tay"; yes, they were right to juxtapose the erotic cascades nf Hnpkins's "Inversnaid" with Spenser's more stately and licit "Prothalamion". But surely the version of "Sir Patrick Spens" they chose, with the King "drinking at the wine", lacks the potency of the version that Robert Frost loved, in which "The King sits in Dunfermline toun, Drinking the blude-

I missed the presence of Les Murray, of Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson. I wondered if poetry was quite as un-urban as this book would suggest. I'd have liked

some poets under the age of 70.
Ultimately, though, anthologies should be judged more by their contents than by their exclusions. Heady, visinnary, and voyaging, this one is a winner. But it's for the ocean voyage, not for the classroom.





By Emma Hagestadt and Boyd Tonkin

Becoming a Mother by Kate Mosse (Virago, £7.99). Pregnant women are suckers when it comes to BabyLit, consuming the Boots mother and baby catalogue with a seriousness usually reserved for Melanie Klein. This series of anecdotes on the pregnant state, largely compiled from the tea tables of south-east London, shows its author no better informed than your average NCT-card-holding mum. Not that this will put readers off: sensible advice on pain relief, midwives and Vitamin K is interspersed with tips on surviving bospital cuisine (Marmite sandwiches under the bed) and marital breakdown (ditto). As Kate Mosse braves the choppy waters of the birthing-pool with Lee, Fran and Sasha, first-time mums be warned. These "real life" hirth stories (like epidurals and new slippers) only really make sense when it's all too late.

Debrett's Wedding Guide, The Planning and Etiquette of a Modern Wedding by Jacqueline Llewelyn-Bowen (Headline, £8.99). From the ermine-clad folk at Debrett's, some surprisingly down-to-earth advice oo planning for the Big Day. Good food, good drink, and chairs for the grannies: YES. Heart-shaped canapés, artificial flowers and receiving

lines: NO. Wedding organiser Llewelyn-Bowen gets to grips with wedding announce (how to style divorced, widowed and separated parents), seating plans (where to put great-aunt Effie) and the terrors of the free-wheeling cherry tomato. Sections on civil weddings, Jewish weddings and male members (ie ushers) make this book as useful for couples planning a small reception as for those intent on a Hello! centrefold spread.

Dirty Tricks by Michael Dibdin (Faber, £5.99). Karen Parsons

lives out by the Oxford ring

road and listens to Richard Clayderman records. Alison Kraemer sings in a madrigal roup and owns a house in the Dordogne. The novel's narrator, a deliciously nasty EFL teacher, lives in Botley and ends up poking them both. Michael Dibdin's reissued Oxford thriller may feature a traditional cast of OUP editors, waspish dons and precocious schoolgirls, but owes more to Martin Amis than Colin Dexter. As the social climbing and dinner parties get out of hand, so do the puoting accidents and trips to dodgy moat houses. Funny and readable, Dibdin traces the road from the "arctic wastes" of Kidlington to the bosky reaches of the Banbury road

Odd Man Ont by Martyn Harris (Pavilion, £12.99). If the poncy notion of "collected journalism" sticks in the craw (it would have done for Martyn Harris), make an exceptioo for this scintillating mix of articles. A graduate of Paul Barker's New Society - that nursery for first-class troublemakers -Harris took his genius for slaying sacred cows to the Telegraph, In that unlikely home, he flourished. Spendidly acerbic features, columns and profiles (eg a notorious set-to with Lauren Bacall) give way, in a sbocking shift of gear, to bulletins oo his cancer and chemotherapy. The wit, the clarity, the hatred of hype or gush survive; the emotions deepen as "the gossamer stuff of ambition and money and possessions falls away". Martyn Harris died last October; he never wrote a dull sentence, or a dishonest one.

The BBC News General Election Guide edited by Ricbard Bailey (HarperCollins, £5.99). Why not boycott TV and radio and read this lucid primer by Auntie's finest (Snow, Oakley, Jay et al)? Facts, figures, all The Ishoos and some damn fine trivia: in Cambridgeshire South, the presenter of One Man and His Dog stands for the Refereodum Party. Did someooe mention Barking (Labour majority 7,180)?

in the same way. "But bow can Heisenberg be so sure aboot his uncertainty principle?" runs one aside. It's a more demanding listen than the others, but worth the effort to acquire a crude mental map of how Foucault and Fukuyama, cyberspace and counterfeit culture, relate. Don't despair if you think it's all meaningless twaddle, because the tape is sealed with a kiss. It concludes: "the only cure for

Christina Hardyment

## Blues in rhapsody

Roz Kaveney discovers the quiet genius of jazz whose work put Duke Ellington in the limelight

Lush Life: a biography of Billy Strayhom by David Hajdu, Granta, £16.99

ome make pacts with the devil and some of us make pacts with our friends; it is not clear which is the more destructive. No one, least of all Duke Ellington, ever wished Billy Strayhorn any harm. Ellington was a substitute for Strayborn's inadequate bully of a father. He took the taleoted young composer and arranger as an extra son. Yet Strayhorn is hardly remembered, save for one song - much of his best work is misremembered as Ellington's. Now Ellington was a giant, and even the people they love most get hidden by giants' shadows. David Hajdu's biography succeeds in rescuing Billy Strayhorn from mild obscurity, but Ellington - the patriarch Ellington with the raffishness of the Cotton Club in Harlem behind him - looks over the book, colossally.

Jazz is a collaborative enterprise, to be sure, but there are people with talent, and people with talent and charisma, too. For black jazz to be recognised as art in racist American society, it had to become a commodity as well. America values what is paid for. So jazz oeeded salesmen.

Ellington was a salesman of genius and his inspiration never ran dry for long. Strayhorn was not the only talented person to find himself circling Ellington, never quite able to escape. He was, bowever, perhaps the most talented, the one who might have been something else.

Strayborn was a bright Pittsburgh kid with talent and a term of music school; he had written a Gershwinplus-Stravinsky concerto for piano and wind, and then reflected that perhaps the world was not crying out live a lush life in some small dive/And with Lena Horne, a circle of hard-for a black working-class composer there I'll be while I rot", the progno-drinking gay friends and a club of to judge.



Billie Holiday records 'Strange Fruit' in 1939. She and Ellington feature in Michael Denning's rich history of radical US art and showbiz in the New Deal years, 'The Cultural Front' (Verso, £20)

of art music. He was a virtuoso of sis for real happiness and permanent play for Ellington, who hired him oo other self that be needed in order to refresh long-standing material.

On his way to Harlem, Strayborn took Ellington's writteo directions and turned them into the song that perhaps above all defines their collaboratioo: "Take The A Train" that greatest anthem of being young, and ambitious in New York. (Hajdu is a quiet and non-directive biographer, whose selection and emphasis of the facts is far more telling than Maileresque rants).

In his late teens, Strayborn had composed his other most memorable song, a song of disillusion and stoically accepted grief. Either he had known bitterness young, or had understood what it was. "Lush Life" was the one project so personal that Ellington never trespassed on it. When, as a man of 21, you have written, and plangently set, words like "Romance is mush/ Stiffing those who strive./ I'll

quiet piano jazz; a friend got him to exhibaration is not good. Part of what Strayborn gave to Ellington, and thus the spot as the reflective, sensitive to the jazz of the Forties and Fifties, was precisely a sense of melancholy more urban and urbane than the blues, bot no less authentic.

Billy Strayhorn was openly and proudly gay in a period where medical and popular opinion were united in the assumption that to be gay was to be miserable and doomed to suicide or early death. Part of what made him Ellington's willing serf was the fact that the ebulliently heterosexual Ellington was sufficiently worldly wise to have no prejudices in the matter whatever. The shadow of Ellingtoo was a safe space for Strayhorn, where be could have approval without discretion or compromise. Most of the time this led him to put up with being a worker for hire, whose treatment over copyrights. was not always all it might have been.

Strayhorn did have a life away from Ellington and Ellingtoniana. He had affairs, an intense friendship

black musicians and dancers, the Copasetics, for whose annual reviews he wrote most of the music. He was. like Ellington, a quietly tireless fundraiser for the oascent civil rights movement. If he was, much of the time, gloomy, perhaps some people just do not have a special gift for hap-

In his early fifties, in 1965, after a painful and humiliating illness borne with rage and regret and no patience at all, Strayhorn died of cancer and was much mourned. Ellington went oo to even greater triumphs and respectability. If at times be smothered Strayhorn's individual creativity, it was because of that greed for more that comes with genius.

The triumph of Hajdu's biography is to show us this working relationship in terms that make clear that the two men had a friendship and working relationship that transcends easy, revisionist cant about parasitism or plagiarism. Ellington's theatrical grief was neither hypocritical nor time-serving. It was the grief of a man in this, as in much else, too big

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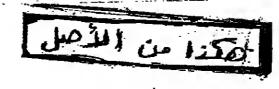


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## The glistening bank Diane Coyle on fat cats in lean times

Masters of Illusion: the World Bank and the have faith in their beliefs and in their poverty of nations by Catherine Cauffield, Macmillan, £20

he cocktail party that marks the start of the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund is one of the most arresting spectacles I have ever seen. You walk from the nearest Metro station in filthy, sticky Washington DC, past a stretch lime jam to the Sheraton Hotel. A tide of nomics. This has created the paradex of a nomics. This has created the paradex of a nomics. and up an escalator that feeds on to a landing above the hotel's hallroom. The gilded aircraft hangar below is packed with the global representatives of money and power, drifting in a sort of jostling Brownian motion with glass in one hand and canapé in the other. This opulent celebration has, apparently, been cut back in an austerity drive. The ice sculptures and champagne have been axed.

The contrast between the glossy wealth of the World Bank and the poverty of its clients in the world's poorest countries has become a cliché. The uproar among staff over the ban on flying first class and staying in five-star hotels is well known - so passé that the bank's oewish presideot, James Wolfensohn, is seeking to increase spending on staff and administration again.

Its huxury is one of many things the World Bank can be criticised for, and this book by the campaigning journalist Catherioe Caulfield lists pretty much every one in damning detail. Two, in particular, condemn the bank on its own terms. First, in the half-century since the Secood World War, only one country - South Korea - has "graduated" from the World Bank, Every other one of its clients still borrows money, and has not yet grown rich enough to become a lender.

Secondly, at the end of the Eighties a study by Unicef found that in more than half the countries adjusting economic policies to qualify for World Bank loans, the amount of food per person had fallen. Patently, the bank has not vanquished poverty.

The strength of this book is that it puts this failure into historical context. The World Bank was the child of two econo-World Bank was the child of two ecocomists, the American Harry Dexter White and the Briton John Many Dexter White and the Britoo John Maynard Keynes, and their fervent good intections to construct a its economic viability. Financial capital new post-war economic system. The institution has scarcely changed, making it a ital - or "trust", as Francis Fukuyama throwback to a discredited corporatism. At would put it. its best, it is paternalistic; at worst, hureaucratic and corrupt. The most telling sign of paternalism is the phrase bank staff have for visiting one of their client countries. They

These beliefs changed dramatically with the Reagan era, President Reagan's budget director, David Stockman, described the Bank as "infested with socialist error" - a phrase that recalls White's destruction by the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1948. As payer of the piper, the Reagan administration converted the bank bureaucranic behemoth, funded by govern-

ment, preaching private enterprise.

The ideology has made the bank more overtly political than ever. Its loans require borrowers to adopt Reaganomics or Thatcherism - deregulation, privatisation, abolition of social protections. As free marketry swept the Washington 130, file vice-president, Shahid Husain, admitted: These loans do go to the heart of the political management of an economy." An adviser to the Indian government described

Bank staff as the "new maharagas."

Caulfield, like many progressive critics of the World Bank, objects to its insistence as one of the world's most bloated bureaucracies - on converting other countries to an extreme market capitalism that its shareholders have failed to implement themselves. But she has no prescription for what the bank should do instead. Some critics, like the charities and lobby groups in the "50 Years is Enough" campaign, would like to shut it down. Others still want to see an institution which channels cheap loans from the rich to the poor.

As the critical debate rages, the bank has perhaps found the way forward at last. Without abandoning the free market, James Wolfensohn has begun to emphasise the importance of good government and sound legal systems, the need to stamp out corruption, the importance of educating women, and of small-scale local projects rather than new dams.

There are circumstances where large, cheap loans have worked, have lifted peoples out of poverty and set them on the path of development, Marshall Aid, after the war, succeeded in rebuilding western improved the region's standard of living or does not work anless it builds on social cap-

Wolfensoim is right to emphasise the social and political construction that must precede economic development. He has little choice. The World Bank has tried go "on mission" Like all missionaries, they pretty much everything else.



'NAIL A MOTTO over the sty of your bed, from getting confirmed until pegging out in the paradise beyond': 'Men are Swine'. George Grosz stayed true to his motto – from a 1918 letter to Otto Schmalhausen – when painting 'Circe' in the Weimar Germany of 1927. It appears in Frank Whitford's 'The Berlin of George Grosz' (Yale, £35), which accompanies the exhibition of drawings, watercolours and prints at the Royal Academy until 8 June



This epistle is faxed from Thessalonika. But reversing St Paul can't compare with the fantastical April Fool's Day joke that took place here oo Tuesday: 32 writers from all over Europe converged on the City of Culture 1997 to speak, for 15 minutes each. on Arfur Jeof Arens, the 19thcentury writer and defiant thinker.

Never heard of him? So defiant was this man, he never existed, save in the imagination of the City of Culture's literary committee, who supplied us with a preposterous CV in advance. In a vast and crowded university auditorium, we battled it out. I batted for Britain, with deadpan translations booming in my car through equipment so antique, St Paul might have used it.

Just by turning up, we were all colluding in the joke. For instance: every symposium must have its highly strung female English novelist, watching with an ironic eye. (My story about Arens's

illegitimate daughter was less vital.)
The day started with a boax row during the pompous opening speeches, as the organiser called on the artistic director to resign. There were many such staged interventions. When a drunken student vociferously complained that he had learnt nothing about Arens, I was convinced he was bogus - but then assured that he was genuine. I'm still oot certain.

For the professional surrealists, it was all in a day's work. Less overtly hizarre contributions were more subversive. Was the solemn German merely doing his set exercise seriously, or was he brilliantly acting the earnest, nitpicking German? Likewise the professor of psychology who delivered a Freudian analysis of a non-existent text, all sticky-up hair and staring eyes. "He's like that all the time," one person said. "It was a great performance," said another.

Arens had the last laugh. When, at the end of the longest April Fool in my life, we toasted him in ouzo, I still didn't know why the event had been organised. Or why I had eagerly taken part. Deadpan and booming, it was all Greek to me.

Charlotte Cory



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Emesto Guevara plied South America in his

The young **Ernesto Guevara** was footloose and fancied free travel. Simon Calder introduces an

extract from a

new biography

of Che

ere he is, that familiar figure gazing out hero-ically from beneath his trademark beret in the general direction of immortality. "Hasta la Victoria Siempre" reads the equally familiar slogan, "Always towards victory", You don't have to be dead to be

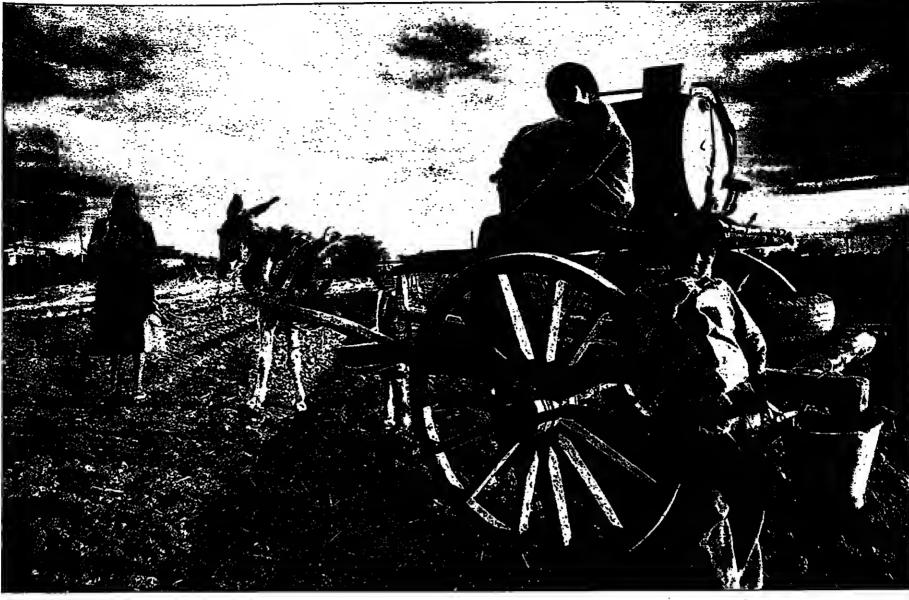
a Cuban hero, hut it helps. Fidel Castro, living proof of the triumph of ideological optimism over grim reality, gets only two graven images on the entire island. In contrast, Ernesto "Che" Guevara is every-where, as much a part of Cuba's political scenery as the face of José Marti, the father of Cuban independence.

Cuban history has absolved him. Yet Che was never the son, prodigal or otherwise, of his adopted nation. He was an Argentinian cousin, often distant, who served his revolutionary apprenticeship on the high roads and in the low dives of Latin America - a rebel with a

The catalyst for his first great expedition may have been his sweet-heart "Chichina" - Maria del Carmen Ferreyra. A beautiful heiress, she had refused his proposal of marge and the promise of a trip around South America. Instead, the 23-year-old Ernesto set off with a close friend, Alberto Granado, six years his senior. Their transport was La Poderosa ("the powerful one"), Alberto's nickname for his doddery old 500cc Norton motorcycle.

On 14 January 1952 they embarked from the beach resort of Miramar on a journey that was to revolver that was to prove an unhappy introduction to ballistics. As this extract from a monumental new hiography (reviewed could outdo the other in the art of below) shows, the two travellers veered between feckless guile and reckless guilt on their rampage around the continent. Part of this adventure is chronicled in Che's own's journal, Notas de Viaje. But also spent three months in Argentina in 1994, much of it in the company of Che's travelling companion, Alberto.

ever, Anderson says, "My sole loyalty in this book is to Che Guevara himself; to write what I perceive to be bis truth, not anyone else's."



# The wandering hero

Che's long and winding road to revolution. By Jon Lee Anderson

their great trek, and the two gypsies sped off. It took them four more weeks, how-Ernesto succumbed to fever and had to be hospitalised for several days; then they returned to the dust and pound of the trail.

By the time they reached the picturesque Lake District in the forested eastern slopes of the Andean cordillera, bordering Chile, their meagre revenues had dwindled, and the two were becoming be far from heroie. Ernesto's expert freeloaders, or mangueros father, Guevara Lynch, provided a motorizados (motorised scroungers), as Ernesto wryly defined it. It hecame a contest between Ernesto and Alberto to see who

grubhing for survival. Sometimes, rejected by their prospective hosts, they were forced to pitch their tent. But more often than not, they were successful, finding floor space for their cots in his hiographer, Jon Lee Anderson, garages, kitchens, harns, and frequently police stations, where they shared cells and meals with an interesting variety of criminals.

Staying for a night in the barn of In death, the name of Che - like an Austrian family, Ernesto awoke that of Christ-has been invoked to to hear scratching and growling at serve a multitude of motives. How- the harn door, and saw a pair of glowing eyes peering in. Having been warned about the fierce local "Chilean pumas" he aimed the Smith & Wesson that Guevara

journey and fired a single shot. The noises stopped, and he went back they were halfway across the settled Ernesto had bagged not a puma, ical research centre. pampa west of Bahia Blanca, hut their hosts' beloved Alsatian Back in Bariloche dog. Bobby. The two escaped, pushing La Poderosa downhill - for she wouldn't start - followed by their hosts' wails, imprecations,

> In the Lake District, they hiked around lakes, climbed a peak - crashing down... I began to feel

he road was clear to hegin Lynch had given him to take on the to their deaths - and used Guevara write a weepy letter, but I couldn't, Chilean doctors, to whom Ernesto Lynch's revolver to poach a wild duck. At one particularly scenic to sleep. But in the morning he and lakeside spot they fantasised about ever, to leave Argentina. Before Alberto awoke to discover that returning together to set up a med-

Chichina informing him that she had decided not to wait for him. Outside, a storm raged. "I read and reread the incredible letter. Just like that, all [my] dreams... came scaring themselves by nearly falling afraid for myself and began to

it was useless to try." Outwardly reconciling himself to his loss, Ernesto was determined to enjoy the rest of the journey. Writing about their crossing of the Andes Back in Bariloche after their to Chile, Ernesto invoked the lines jaunt, Ernesto opened a letter from of a poem that hegan: "And now I sensuous, pliant women. Hearing feel my great root floating naked and free ...

Entering Chile, they obtained free passage on a ferry across Lake Esmeralda by manning the bilge pumps of the leaky cargo barge it pulled. Aboard, they met some

Miramar

Che's route

ARGENTINA

and Alberto introduced themselves as "leprologists". The gullible Chileans told them of the Pacific territory of Easter Island, Rapa colony existed alongside hordes of this, Ernesto and Alberto immediately extracted a letter of recommendation from their new friends for the "Society of Friends of Easter Island in Valparaiso, where they might secure free ship passages to the island. By the time they reached dry land, they had resolved to add this exotic new destination to their ambitious itinerary. Their next stop was the Pacific

port of Valdivia, where they paid a visit to the local newspaper, the Correo de Valdivia, and came away with a glowing profile of them-selves, published under the headline "Two dedicated Argentine travellers on motorcycle on their way through Valdivia". Not ones to miss a good opportunity, Ernesto and Alherto had solemnly reinvented themselves as "leprosy experts", with "previous research in neighbouring countries" - and the unsuspecting Correo reprinted their claims. In addition to leprology. Ernesto and Alberto must have given free rein to their judgements on a wide variety of topics, for the Correo went on to laud them for having, "during their very sbort stay in our country, penetrated its social, economic and 01624 675137. All rights reserved.

sanitary problems" Press clippings in hand, which Ernesto proudly called "the con-densation of our audacity", they were off again. A day later, La Poderosa took a fall, smashing her gearbox and snapping part of the the steering. As they repaired her in a workshop in the whistlestop of Lautaro, they became instant celebrities as the locals gathered around to watch. They managed to scrounge a few free meals and, after La Poderosa had been patched up, were invited to drink some wine

with their new friends. Ernesto found the Chilean wine delicious, so much so that by the time he and Alberto arrived at a village dance, he felt "capable of great feats". There, having drunk even more, he invited a married woman to dance and began to lead her outside while her husband watched. The woman tried to resist. Ernestu continued "dragging her", and she fell tu the floor. After that, Ernesto and Alberto were chased from the hall by infuriated dancers.

With Ernesto at the helm of La Poderosa, they left town, "fleeing places that were no longer so hos-pitable to us but only a few kilo-metres out of town, at a tight bend in the road, La Poderosa's rear brake failed, and then, as she picked up speed downhill, her hand brake failed as well. Ernesto swerved to avoid a herd of wandering cows, and they crashed into the road bank. Miraculuusly. La Poderosa was apparently undamaged, and, finding her rear hrake once again mysteriously working, they continued their trek. But the day was not yet over.

"Backed up as always by our press' letter of recommendation. we were put up by some Germans who treated us in a very cordial manner," wrote Ernesto. "During the night I got a colic which I didn't know how to stop; I was ashamed to leave a souvenir in the chamberpot, so I climbed on to the window, and gave up all of my pain to the night and the blackness... The next morning I looked Nui, where Chile's only leper out to see the effect and I saw that two metres below lay a great sheet of zinc where they were sun-drying their peaches: the added spectacle was impressive. We beat it from there."

Leaving a lengthening trail of irate bosts behind them, the two continued their escape to the north, but their faithful steed began to fail them. Every time they reached a hill, La Poderosa balked, and finally gave up. It was their last day as motorised scroungers.

A lorry deposited them and the crippled Poderosa in the next town, Los Angeles. They found lodging in the fire station after chatting up the three daughters of its chief. Later, Ernesto paid coy homage to the uninhihited girls as "exponents of the grace of the Chilean women who, whether pretty or ugly, have a certain something of spontaneity, of freshness,

that captivates immediately". The next day they left on a lorry headed for Santiago, lugging the carcass of La Poderosa with them like the body of a fallen comrade.

Extracted from Che Guevara: A Revolutionary Life by Jon Lee Anderson, pub-lished by Bantam Press, price £25. Avail-able from bookshops or by mail order to



HULTON GETTY

# Portrait of the martyr as a young man

Ian Thomson charts Che's progress from playboy to executioner

n the 1960s Che Guevara's Che Guevara: A Revolutionary Life by bearded face appeared on more student bedsit walls than damp stains or Jimi Hendrix. The famous photograph of saintly eyes and straggly hlack hair was taken in Havana 14 months after the Revolution. It was March 1960. Che bad been standing on a bal-cony, half obscured by Castro's bulk, when he moved into a journalist's lens. An Argentine of Spanish ancestry, Che became an icon in the West like Warhol's Monroe. Cubans nicknamed him Che - "mate" - after his comradely

Ernesto Guevara (de la Serna) devoted 11 years of his brief life to Fidel's Revolution. Even in death there was a sainted air to his appearance. After be was executed by the military in a remote Bolivian schoolroom on 9 October 1967, the nurse who washed Che's corpse and the nuns at the bospital where his body was displayed kept locks of his hair. They said he Jon Lee Anderson, Bantam Press, £25

resembled Jesus Christ. The Bolivian High Command wanted to obliterate every trace of the freedom fighter: before two days were out, all that remained to he seen of him were his severed bands, stoppered in formaldebyde for finger-

print identification.

The location of Che's grave in
Bolivia was revealed by Jon Lee
Anderson in 1995 during his research for this diligent biography. Anderson is a Time magazine journalist and his determination to interview all who knew Che is admirable. He spoke to Che's widow, Aleida March; to the rebel's final interrogator, the CIA stooge Felix Rodríguez (who embraced Che after communicating his death sentence), and to the Bolivian army sergeant who volunteered to exe-cute him. Disguising his identity from Fidel's assassins with a variety of wigs, Mario Terán repeats

Che's last words: "I know you've Argentine tea planter, remarked lutionary patriots, led by Fidel, come to kill me. Shoot, coward, you that "Ernesto had brutalised his from Mexico to Cuba in 1956. The come to kill me. Shoot, coward, you are only going to kill a man."

Thirty years after his death, Che Guevara: A Revolutionary Life gives an admirably balanced account of the Argentine adventurer, his real achievements and glamorous

Robin Hood appeal.
Obsessed with finding a cure for his chronie asthma, Guevara took a medical degree at Buenos Aires in 1953. He wanted to remedy the social injustice of South America at first with preventative medicine, later through armed insurrection.

Che could be ruthless. During the long guerilla war in Cuba, he personally killed the first traitor of the revolution. "I ended the problem by giving him a shot with a .32 pistol in the right side of his hrain ..." Still unpublished. Che's private diary reveals a chilling detachment from violence. In 1959, after Fidel's victory, Guevara oversaw an estimated 550 executions in Havana. Che's father, an cabin cruiser that ferried 82 revo-

own sensitivities".

It was not always so, In 1952 Guevara had travelled round South America on a motorbike, galli-vanting like a beatnik down Peru's desert Pacific coast and up to the ruins of Macchu Picchu and staying as a guest of the President of Ecuador. A middle-class Argentine with little interest in politics, then he preferred to sleep with the family maids.

As a doctor in the backwoods of Guatemala three years later, Guevara was introduced to leftists opposed to the regime funded by United Fruit - the company which had made of neighbouring Hon-duras the original "banana repub-lic". This was a crucial encounter, encouraging Guevara's loathing for Uncle Sam and his eventual conversion to Marxism.

Guevara was the only non-Cuban aboard the Granma, the

Cuban revolution was not commu-nist but nationalist in inspiration. After Batista's thuggish regime had been overthrown and Che made director of the Cuban national hank, he retained his comhat fatigues and hlack beret, mindful of bis proletarian image. He was a very different revolutionary to the Fidelistas. While Castro was the paunchy epicure with n relish for pasta con vongole, in later years Che

didn't dance or drink. His passion was for chess and nathematics. A literate man, he bad an acidic sense of bumour and the adventurer's contempt for bureaucracy. Unhappy with the course of Fidel's reforms - too much paperwork - Che left Cuba in 1965 to champion other revolutionary causes in Zaire and

Anderson proves conclusively that Fidel sent Che Guevara (aiready the father of five children)

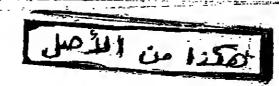
to Bolivia in the spring of 1966. The decision eventually led to Che's death at the age of 39 during a balf-

baked guerilla insurrection.

Tied up like an animal in the
Bolivian schoolroom, Che was
didactic to the end. Motioning to a grammatical error on the hlackboard, he told a frightened teacher that her school was a disgrace. If the rest of Che's life was a glamorous failure, he had at least helped tu eradicate Cuha's

Occasionally Anderson's prose is clumsy ("Buenos Aires now had a melting pot's combustive, passionate quality") and he quotes too liberally from Che's own guerilla manuals, which are not scintillating. But Che Guevara: A Revolutionary Life is an excellent guide to the

myth behind the martyr. Were he alive today, Ernesto Gnevara de la Serna would be approaching 70. He died with his boots on, caught in full stride as he



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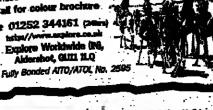
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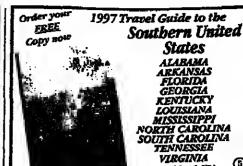
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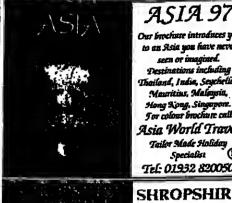
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## Extra time in Arsenal

Sue Wheat goes on location for the real story behind her film debut in 'Fever Pitch'

in Fever Pitch - the film of Nick faces one of the most desirable areas Hornby's book ahout Arsenal supporter Paul, who lives his life through foothall, and his girlfriend Sarah, who definitely doesn't see abode just a corner kick away from the attraction of North London's finest. It wasn't a starring role: you can just see the hack of my head in the Christmas shopping scene in Camden Passage, as I brush shopping bags nonchalantly with Colin Firth, alias Paul.

Camden Passage is hasically a huge antiques market. Confusingly, it is in Islington, lurking behind Upper Street - the district's main street, packed with eateries where real-life Friends scenarios seem to be Barn, a mini-Hampstead-style village in continuous play. To be honest, Chapel Market, opposite Angel station, is more my thing, where I am happy to buy vegetables as well as a selection of tacky hirthday cards

that play tunes when you open them. Most of the action in Fever Pitch is located at Highbury. Or rather, it filmed miles away at Fulham FC's Craven Cottage ground, because the Arsenal ve has become an all-seater and hence is now unsuitable for the Eighties terrace action required for the film. But the true fan will overlook this detail and head for Arsenai's home at Highbury, just north of

More confused geography. The Arsenal ground is called Highbury, although it is in fact in Arsenal. OK. so a lot of people know that, but I

hen you've had a part is orange-and-brown wallpaper, "No in a film, you get an affinity for the locais a caff with an extra helping of is a caff with an extra helping of tion. I wangled a part don't-mess-with-me character. Yet it of London, Highhury Fields. In the film, Paul and Sarah go

house-hunting, and Paul chooses an abode just a corner kick away from the Arsenal FC. Sarah gives it the proverbial yellow card. Now I realise why. Highhury Fields with its won-derful, four-storey Victorian houses, wrought iron railings and antique street lamps, is definitely more her style. Walking up Highbury Place and through Highbury. Fields (which through Highhury Fields (which aren't really fields, more of a common) you see only happy, heautiful people with cute children.

I carried on through Highhury with overflowing recycling hins, Continental delis, cheese shops, and cosy knick-knack stores selling hrightlycoloured wooden toys at mortgage prices. Even the kehah shop was posh. Sarah would love this, I thought. Paul would he more sceptical. A scene in the film came to isn't. The soccer highlights were mind, where he picks an ethnic figure off Sarah's mantelpiece, looks hemused and asks "What's this for?" "It's not for anything," she responds, 'It just looks nice.'

The transition from Highbury to Arsenal is gradual. The frequency of restaurants painted in rustic colours diminishes as you walk down Blackstock Road, past places such as Ar-senal's Fish Bar, with plastic chairs screwed to the floor. When I reached a pub called The Gunners, I knew I must he getting warm. This is a didn't. Just outside Highhury Tube shrine, with framed programmes station, I was halted by the lure of a and Arsenal strips. "Twenty minutes hacon hutty at the Seven Steps cafe (est 1922) on Highbury Place. With here," the harman told me proudly. a Zimbabwean Arsenal pilgrim. His ferent times in history. But when we dad, a Londoner, had made him liswatched Arsenal: The Story So Far in



Gunning for Arsenal: "I realised I was privy to a major life experience"

ground. As I got closer, the ratio of boarded-up houses to inhabited ones increased. Those that were lived in invariably had lager-can gardens and red Arsenal scarves across the win-

dows. This was Paul's territory.

Then I saw it. A huge cream huilding stretching up the road. A sign said: "Museum open Fridays. £2. Wait here, gates opened every 15 minutes." It was Friday. I waited. The road was deserted than I heard road was deserted, then I heard singing; it was a young postman pushing a post trolley. As he passed the ground he sang at the top of his voice "Arsenal, Arsenal, We're top of the league, Arsenal, Arsenal ... It

was almost a religious moment. I was joined at the gates by a thirty-something fan in an Arsenal coat. He looked me up and down and I came clean. I'd seen the film; I didn't know anything about football; would he show me round the museum? Miles, it turned out, was

He pointed me towards the ten to Arsenal matches on the radio in Zimhabwe from the time he was six, and now he comes here every few years to watch his team. "It's fantastic, when it gets into your blood that's it," he said with a hig sigh. adding, Tve only seen them lose once." The similarity between him and Paul, and Sarah and me, was spooky. Yes, he'd read Fever Pitch. "No one who loves football could

not relate to it." So Miles and I went round the museum, and he was very patient, listening to my inane questions. Who's the most famous player? "They're all famous!" "Isn't it funny that the Manager of Arsenal is called Arsene? He smiled, and looked as if he really hoped the other two fans in the museum hadn't heard.

The atmosphere was like the hush in a church as the men moved from relic to relic. To me it was just lots of pictures of men with their arms folded in different-style shorts at difPHOTOGRAPH: KALPESH LATHIGRA

the museum cinema, presented by Boh Wilson, and the men sat absorbed, whoah-ing, puffing and shak-ing their heads with admiration as goal after goal went into the net; I realised I was privy to a major life experience. I only just managed to stop myself shouting "Harsenal", Eric Morecambe style, when somebody farted.

I sent myself off, leaving the boys to commune on their own. I didn't belong, and didn't really under-stand what made Miles and his fellow fans so obsessed with Arsenal. But I did realise Fever Pitch was real-

Fever Pitch (15) is on general release. Camden Passage: shops Tues-Sat, 10am-5pm; stalls Wed 7am-2pm, Sat 9am-3.30pm. Chapel Market, Chapel Street, Islington: daily except Mon. 10am-2pm. Arsenal Museum (0171-704 4000): Fri 9.30am-4pm, daily for pre-arranged stadium tours, match days two-and-a-half hours before kickoff. Adults £2, under-16s £1.



Simon Calder

lane crazy" is an over-used headline for aviation stories, but it was appropriate for The Mirror's front-page lead on Monday. In case you missed the piece, it began: "A jumbo made a £100,000 transatlantic

flight carrying just one passenger. Stuart Pike, 33, travelling from New York to London, had the run of the 400-seater British Airways jet when all the other passengers transferred to another flight because of a fault. After being waited on by 17 stewards and stewardsses, he said: It was the most relaxing and

pleasant flight I've ever had."

A jolly bank holiday yarn, then - but not as innocuous as it seems. Indeed, the tale raises a series of questions. For example: how come all the other passengers could fit on to the second plane? Can British Airways really do no better than half-fill its transatlantic 747s, even in the busy Easter season?

Any scheduled airline would answer this question by saying the whole point of a schedule is to offer guaranteed departures, no matter how few passengers choose to travel. BA no doubt believes its six jumbo flights a day between Heathrow and New York give it a competitive edge over other airlines.

So flying hundreds of empty seats across the Atlantic can be construed as good news for shareholders. If enough first- and husinessclass passengers pay several thousand pounds for the privilege of flying BA, it matters little that seats at the hack of the plane are vacant.

Can British Airways really do no better than half-fill its transatlantic 747s, even during Easter?

What works for airlines, though, is not necessarily good for the planet. Transatlantic aircraft hum hundreds of tons of fuel at high altitude. The worst offender - making more noise, consuming more fuel and causing even more pollution than the biggest Boeing 747 – is Concorde.

The supersonic aircraft still flies twice a day at twice

the speed of sound, whizzing 100 high-spending travellers between Heathrow and New York. Or rather, 100 seats. Two other stories this week involved the ageing jet. In both cases, a fault caused the plane to return to New York. The number of passengers affected? Fewer than 50 in each case. Readers in the south of England, regularly assailed by the deafening noise of Concorde's military engines should know that if the two daily departures were combined, the loudest plane in the sky would still not be full.

The other intriguing snippet that the stories revealed was that BA keeps a spare Concorde parked at Kennedy

airport, just in case. Few other airlines can afford the luxury of spare capacity. Apparently, though, British Midland can. The airline has lent a Boeing 737 to John Major for his use during the election campaign.

Two more questions: would the plane otherwise be sitting around idle? And how many potential passengers will defect from British Midland to the non-partisan Air UK flying British-made BAe 146s. quieter and more economical than the American Boeing?

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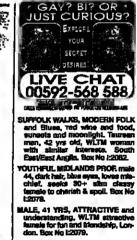
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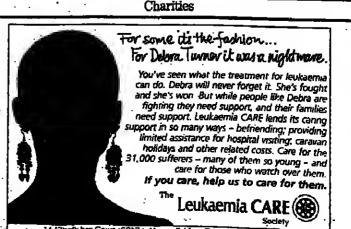
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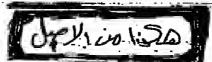
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## Last rites for the Masai

'Green' tourism is killing one of Africa's proudest tribes, writes Sue Wheat



Once were warriors: evicted from the land they've lived on for centuries, the Masai have been on the warpath in Birmingham

here are some things in travel of which everyooe approves conservation, for example, particularly of the wildlife reserves in East Africa, But life on this crowded planet is not that simple. If you stop to ask the people whose lands these are, you discover that not everyooe is in favour of the concept of national parks as developed for the preservation of animals and pleasure of foreign tourists. This week, some of those people came to visit the country that dispatches many of said

"What would yoo like to drink?" I ask my oew frieod. "Warm cow's hlood," he replies, throwing his head I'll have a beer.'

Sitting outside a London pub with the Masai - some in jeans and sweat- land - the type of grass, the water, hrightly coloured robes - was a surreal experience. The people next to us, having a quiet after-work drink, southern Tanzania. were oaturally curious. "What are you doing here?" they asked, and the and tourism, terrible things have parks to attract tourists. The Masai

story of the Masai unfolded again.
The Masai are on a mission.

oo for centuries, they became so desperate that they accepted an invitation to visit Birmingham, Rednosed Comic Relief capers funded a Bristol charity, African Initiatives, which paid for three of them to take a course in conflict resolution in Selly Oak. After that, they toured Britain explaining their situation. I met them in Loodon, tired and yearning for Masailand.

Masailand, to you and me, is are no country boundaries, only traditional land demarcations which are hased on ecological regions - wetlands and dry lands. "We are to another so that it is never overgrazed. We know every detail of the sufficient," explains Reyet ole to walk six miles for water." Moono, a young Masai man from

conservation agencies, say Reyet and his fricods, encouraged the Tanzanian government to designate large chunks of Masailand as "protected areas" and forced the Masai out. "They didn't realise the land they have made into national parks is rich in resources and wildlife because we've kept it like that over centuries, grazing our livestock sideby-side with the wildlife."

Crammed into small pockets of Kenya and Tanzania: For them, there land outside the parks without access to watering holes, salt-licks and enough grazing land, their livestock are dying. Without the livestock, the Masai are starving. Many of Reyer's pastoralists - we graze cattle, sheep friends have left for the city now, he back and laughing. "No, doo't worry, and goats and migrate from one spot explains. Others perform "ridiculous dances" for tourists on the roadside. With many men away, the women struggle on the land alone, explains

But in the name of conservation to the Masai and made into national happened to the Masai lands over the last few decades. In a modern-them, "but inside these conservation Kanderi story of the Masai unfolded again. happened to the Masai lands over are fined or imprisoned if they enter ourselves."

The Masai are on a mission. the last few decades. In a modern-them, "but inside these conservation day divide and rule, international areas there are roads, hotels, lodges, one hand holding a pint, the other ourselves."

Tourism Concern, Stapleton House, Kanderi is a mighty figure. With one hand holding a pint, the other one hand holding a pint, the other ourselves."

and lots of tourist minibuses," says Reyet. "This word conservation is a contradiction." They say that, ironically, in some areas, 80 per cent of the wildlife have moved out of the national parks, so harassed are they by safaris. And now that the Masai are no longer there to scare off poschers, the wildlife that remains is threatened: there were 500 rhinos before the Masai were evicted; there are oow only eight.

I am used to the Masai of travel brochures, proud and smiling. These Masai are proud, too, but behind their pride is anger and desperation. "We have not been consulted about conservation; we have been evicted; we do not gain any income from tourism, we are completely left out," says Kanderi ole Toroge, who now lives outside Serengeti National Park educated, we're fighting in the in Tanzania and is bringing a court action against two companies which Across Kenya and Tanzania a total are illegally building a lodge, airfield of 12,097 square miles has been lost to the Masai and made into national parks to attract tourists. The Masai manage tourism and benefit from it

cootinually rewrapping his robe to keep out the cool evening air, be ains in no uncertain terms who is to blame. "The World Wide Fund for Nature, the Friends of Screngeti, the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), these are all international organisations that have decided what will happen to our land without ever asking us."

Later, I meet Kitilai ole Ntutu, "I am the son of the chief of all Kenyan Masai," he says, "and I am visiting the European Parliament tomorrow. They are using your taxes to fund these agencies who have evicted us and I'm going to ask them to stop.

I ask if they're hopeful for the future. "We're worried," they say, "but we're hopeful, we're getting

More information on the displacement of the Masai from African Ini-tiatives, 41 Ashgrove Road, Bristol BS7 9LF (0117 952 0988) and

#### Student travel writing competition winners

## Top seats of learning

Write your way around the world - that was the offer made to Britain's students by The Independent in association with BT Chargecard, Campus Travel and us at Rough Guides writes Richard Trillo. Our student travel-writing competitioo asked for ao account of entrants' university towns - and many took the job extremely seriously. We had listings of pubs and restaurants from Pickering to Pisa and from Derby to Dar-Es-Salaam.

There was some solid. descriptive writing, too, squeezed into the 500 words allowed. It was the language of description, however, that failed some entrants as they struggled to make lively a grimy wasteland. There were, let it be said, too many hustling markets, busy streets and quaint alleys; far too many fascinating cities with rich cultural histories.

History itself defeated some entrants: the judges were dismayed to learn that Coventry had been "devastated by the Industrial Revolution", though this made more impact than the description of ooe university town (to remain nameless) where "the abundance of parking and major routes through the town centre tempts arrival by car".

Entries were anything but hland: Bristol is "a thriving, dynamic and progressive city", Hull "the gateway to Europe" or, more debatably, "rectum of the Uoiverse"; Leicester is simply "a city at the centre of everything".

There were five finalists, all of them women. Fifth prize, for a Eurostar trip to Paris and £750, goes to Esther Wolff for her sharply written guide to Cambridge. Fourth prize, for a trip to Bologna and £/50, goes to Anna Sandig, for her unremittingly grim account of Salford – full marks for blunt feelings. Third prize, a trip to Harvard and £1,000, goes to Elizabeth Blagburn, whose quirky appraisal of Birmingham gave the city

some appeal without exaggerating its charms. Second prize, a trip to San Francisco and £1,000, goes to Catherine Snell for her ideal day out in Newcastle with her dad - a masterpiece of précis. But in the end, it was the writing that settled it. Sheridao Humphreys dramatically expressed coffee-stained description of student life in London wins a trip to Australia and £1,500. Here is an extract ...

My favourite coffee ritual is Golborne Road on a Saturday morning. Oporto and Lisboa bask in the sun on winter Saturdays, their pavements crammed with coffee lovers, and lovers. "Coffee in a glass," shricks the Portuguese waitress in Oporto; it's the loudest voice I have ever heard outside the opera, and it's always a miracle that there's not a pile of shattered glass in a puddle of coffee. But to me, on hungover Saturdays it's the sweetest song of all. Eveo nicer when it's followed by "cheese croissant toasted". And if your croissant arrives blackened by the grill, well, that's the way it always is.

It's surprising that I get hangovers in London. because the pubs close at 11pm. Even on a Saturday night. That gives you enough time to have a coffee at Bar Italia in Soho before you catch the last Tube home from Leicester Square, where you can also get the first edition of your favourite Sunday paper. When you get home, you fall into a deep sleep to the soothing sounds of the shipping forecast. If you miss the last Tube, don't bother going home until 3am. You've got Trafalgar Square by moonlight and the night bus to look forward to. I d rather have a hango A typical dilemma on Saturday morning at my house after a night out in Loodon: How did this Patrick Cox man's shoe get into my handbag?

Sheridan Humphreys



something

to declare

#### **Trouble spots**

Warnings for travellers, by travellers, in the new edition of Wanderlust (price £2.50; call 01753 620474).

Makgadikadi Pans, Botswana: "During the wetter months (February/ March) the area is host to .. the migration of zebra and wildebeest. However, due to the rains it is very hazardous. for the uninitiated to venture into the area under their own steam as there is a real danger of getting stuck."

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night-life is run by the Mafia, but they keep their joints safe and clean as it encourages husiness. Most hotel night-clubs are basically pick-up joints for

best avoided. "Before you have too much fun, remember that from May to September all the city bridges are raised from 2am to 5am to allow boats to pass - and there is no alternative route home."

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upmarket hookers and are

St Petersburg, Russia: "Most might-life is run by the Mafia, "Arriving at the airport can the right after you come through customs). If you are female, doo't join the queue of men - you can be served straightaway if you go to the door of the office. There, you state your destination and pay for the taxi in advance. Give the receipt to the driver. You pay him no further money at your

·destination."

Samoa: "Kirikiti is the Samoan version of a game be intimidating. Look out for only marginally recognisable the prepaid taxi office (on as cricket. Rules are highly flexible and the number of participants can be dizzying."

> For more advice on specific destinations, contact the Foreign Office Travel Advice Unit on 0171-238 4503 or 4504, or fax 0171-238 4545; on the Internet, at http://www.fco.gov.uk/ or on BBC2 Ceefax from page 564 onwards.

#### Bargain of the week

At the stroke of midnight last return tickets to Australia for nights, the clock at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich began counting down the 1.000 days to the year 2000. To mark the Millennium and to fill seats on their Boeing 747s (see story opposite) - British Airways (0345 222111) and Qantas (0345 747767) are selling two

a total of £1,000 plus taxes of around £25 per person. The deal applies for travel until 30 June, but seats must be booked in the 2,000 minutes between 9am on Monday morning, 7 April, and 6.20pm the following day. Stopover options include Singapore, Tokyo and Johannesburg.

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#### True or false

You require intellectual stimulation from a holiday. You discover to your horror that your partner has booked you both nn a fortnight's package to the Caribbean. You must, therefore, resign yourself to two weeks of cultural starvation.

That is, of course, false. As an intellectual, you will already have read the epic poem "Omeros" by the Nobel prizewinner Derek Walcott from St Lucia, and you will remember that his island boasts a second Nobel laureate in the economist Arthur Lewis, though you haven't read him yet. You also make a vow to read

Martin Amis on St Lucia. But in case your flight is diverted to the Dominican Republic, breaks down in Puerto Rico or is hijacked to Havana, you buy The Caribbean, a Traveller's Literary Companion, which sees readers out of tight corners everywhere from Tobago to the Bahamas. Every geographic section has a cultural introduction,

instance, that Barbados is a little too English, almost suburban, for some tastes, and that Brimstone Hill in St Kitts has a wonderful fortress, the Gibraltar of the West Indies. Theo there follow extracts from the best books written about each

So if you are eventually carted off to the Dominican Republic, the Companion is on your side. It starts you off with an extract of the mendacious sales patter that Columbus - the 15th-century equivalent of a parliamentary lobbiest gave to Ferdinand and Isabella, claiming that the rivers ran with gold. Then comes Quentin Crewe's tale of the restaurant in the town of Samana which serves filete Gordon Blur.

Sometimes the Compani tries to put you off places. Noël Coward's elegant puncturing of Frenchmen's pride in Martinique is reprinted. It ends:

In praising this celestial They, one and all omit to About its flat cathedral Its indescribable hotels The noisome and disgusting smells That make the island

On your return to Islington, you don't tell anyone about Dr James Ferguson's invaluable book, because it would give away the source of your newfound encyclopaedie and

cosmopolitan knowledge. But when you are preening yourself over cocktails in Chelsea, squelch any reference to literary figures from Guyana, because the otherwise exemplary guide sadly fails to include that magical country.

Oh, and it contains a foreword by Margaret Drabble, a recommendation for the older littérateur. That can't be bad.

Hugh O'Shaughnessy

The Caribbean, a Traveller's Literary Companion', by James Ferguson (In Print



think of taking a out, I hailed this cab... his lunatic rantings - Burt's ten year old carried out that function for him - it also To check that no damage had heeo something broken you'd be punching me London N7

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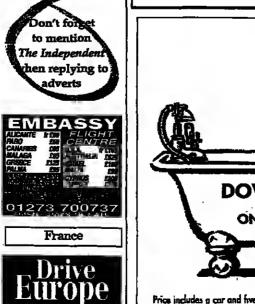
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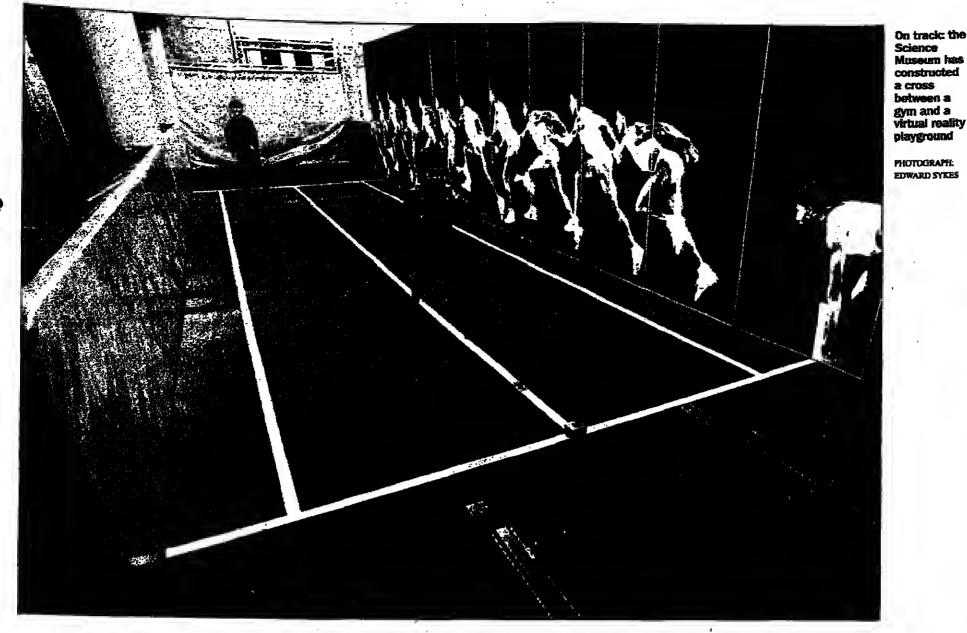
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### travel & outdoors



# A run for your money

Days out: Jane Furnival runs her family to the Science of Sport exhibition

shows are passé. Legs-on exhibits are the in thing. Machines enabling you to put your whole self in, out, and shake it all about. That's the aim of Science of Sport, the Science Museum's new would-he blockhuster exhibition, and their answer to the penalty shoot-out to the cerie Olympic running-block to race sons William, 10, and Charlie, V&A's Cutting Edge fashion. accompaniment of roars of 10 metres against a top run- five, and family friend Alexan-

couch and into trainers, they have constructed a cross between a glittering gym and a fairground, full of virtual reality machines, including volleyball, tennis, golf and rockclimbing.

approval (or groams, if you ner. As you take your first

In an effort to get us off the miss it) from an invisible step, the virtual reality image

Ageist it ain't. Each exhibit is staffed by impressively qualified sportspeople, often champions, who help anyone to have a crack at anything, even arm-achingly hard You can also shoot real wheelchair racing. You can goals in basketball or take a use Linford Christie's

turns into a Bugs Bunny-style streak into the distance, so no

Jane Furnival went to the Science of Sport exhibition with her husband Andy Tribble and

Jane: Each of us discovered unknown skills, so we all left feeling pleasantly surprised with ourselves. I beat off all comers in the "how steady is your hand?" test, a skill developed by holding overloaded shopping baskets in super-

when my brother wants me to

I don't usually like museums, but I will definitely come

William: Snowboarding was

best. You stand on this moving,

wohlly board in front of an

awesome screen showing a

over the ice. It was easy to bal-

ance while the board twisted and turned, until you looked

up at the screen. Then every-

Now, about the treadmill -

warning! Try it after lunch, oot

before, because it shows you

how many calories you're

using, and it's useful after

you've had chocolate cake. As

you walk on it, it takes a video

of your feet which helped me

to walk properly. When 1 got on it, 1 was shuffling my feet. My mum tells me off for that,

hut really seeing myself doing

it oo the video helped me cor-

I wonder why they didn't

have anything about cricket or

Charlie: I liked the running,

because I could beat those

Science of Sport is open for 18

mooths at the Science Museum, Exhibitioo Road,

South Kensington, Loodoo SW7 2DD (0171-938 8000)

from 10am to 6pm every day

except Christmas Eve, Christ-

mas Day and Boxing Day.

Allow at least two hours to

How to get there: Tuhe: South

Kensingtoo. Buses: 9, 9A, 10, 52, 14, 345, 74, 70, C1, 49.

Entry costs are in two parts:

£5.95 for adults aged 18 and

over to get into the museum

itself, plus an extra £3 for the Science of Sport section - for

children aged five to 17, plus coocessions, that's reduced to

£3.20, plus an extra £2 for the

Science of Sport. Under-fives

Expect long queues to get in.

You can bypass these by pre-booking a priority, timed visit

from First Call oo 0990 661

030, paying a 75p booking fee.

Kit you need: trainers and

Vital to know: There is no re-

entry to the exhibition, so

make sure that you use the child-friendly loos just out-

side by the lifts before you

start. Also, time your visit so

that you don't become thirsty

or ravenous half-way through.

Feeding time: The museum

cafés are expensive, and

crowded. There is a picnic

sporty gear.

boys who were helping.

The deal

visit.

one fell off.

shoot at him in goal.

market queues. There are two virtual-reality pods, which you sit in and landscape that makes you press a button to experience think you're sliding really fast driving or Formula One racing. It's claimed they give you the real feeling of G-force, but in fact it felt more like sitting in a giant cocktail shaker. The children loved it, but I found it no different from ordinary

The real plus of this exhibitioo was oot the machines. which all had their limitations, but the infectious enthusiasm of the helpers. We had an ex-Marine called Andy, and Darren who had endless champiooships. With great good humour, they taught little Charlie how to kick a ball and William how to swing a

fairground rides.

golf cluh. The poteotial problem for this show will be the queues. the invasion of yobs, and also boys pushing out girls. I hope the staff will control that. I would go again soon, hefore too many machines get tired and break down. Virtual reality machines can be tetchy.

Andy: I liked the virtual volleyball because it didn't involve too much exertion, Better still was the test for the speed of your reaction to sound and light. Great, because it involved the exercise of ooe finger only - and I was best at

What was missing for me was discussion of the cultural aspects of sport. One of the most famous Somalis is a woman who runs wearing shorts, but I'd like to know how this goes down among the Islamic community. And it's all very well saying how sport is so good for you, hut I'd like to know how sport can be bad for

Alexandra: I've never done any visual reality things before. and it was fun playing volleyball with a ball that was just a shadow on a screen, but responded when you hit it. But you take the game less seri-

Climbing the rock face was hard work, but I enjoyed it so much that it made me think

room for those with packed luoches. Leave your lunch bag in the free cloakroom in the basement, or you will be The sports experts taught me to kick the ball with the side of

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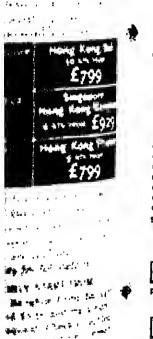
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about taking up climbing. I was amazed that I scored best against everybody at the football penalty shoot-out.

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## Vulture culture

#### Malcom Smith goes hawk hunting in the Pyrenees

Joeu valley, mesmerised by the colours and texture of the fir and birch forests. Then we walked. We had come to this part of the Pyrenees, west of Andorra, to see the bone-breaker - so named because of its habit of flying skyward with a sheep or goat bone, and dropping it on to rocks to hreak it open for a meal of the marrow. Also known as the bearded vulture, or lammergeier, it has a wing-span of up to 9ft, a steel grey back, orange underparts and an orange head with black facial markings. Lammergeiers are unmistakable. Although they are rare in Europe, there are more than 70 breeding pairs in the Pyrenees. So we felt they should he easy to find ...

According to local experts, it's quite possible to see them gliding along almost any valley, usually high up near the mountain tops, searching for an animal that has recently expired in the unforgiving terrain. So our first attempt, albeit with low cloud from the previous oight's thunderstorms clearing slowly through the day, took us along a side valley off the main Vall d' Aran, with the Garonne river cleaving down its middle.

Passing typical Aranese huildings of stone with steep, slate roofs, we walked for several miles on tracks and paths, by turbulent streams through forests of licheo-draped spruces, hlack pines and birch. Jays shouted their harsh calls, like rough gearhoxes in the trees. Apollo butterflies the size of small hirds fluttered around, Stunning little hlackand-yellow fire salamanders plodded across damp footpaths. But oothing resembling a lammergeier came into sight all day.

Undeterred, the next day we decided to head for what is arguably the most isolated part of the Pyreoees, the Aigues Tortes and St Maurice National Park, Catalonia's only national park, it covers 130 square kilometres of rugged mountain land, with forests and snowcapped peaks rising to 10,000ft. Since almost all of it is publicly owned, the park has no habitation and imposes strict controls on vehicles. It is a mountain walker's dreamland.

To get into Aigues Tortes, there are three approaches by road, via the small towns of Boi to the west, Capdella at mergeiers drop bones of sheep or London SWIA ILD (0171-499 0901).

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south and - the way we used - Espot to the east. We hired what's called a "Jeep taxi" (in fact a nine-seater Land Rover) from Espot (they line up a few yards from the national park's information centre), and drove about eight kilmetres to the picturesque St Maurice lake. At weekends this is a honey-pot. Yet on weekdays some of the hiking trails are surprisingly uoderused. We walked up the Monestero valley to the south of the lake. It turned out to be an inspired choice. Under the silver firs, Norway spruce and Scots pines, alpenrose hushes carpeted the ground between the boulders. Wetter ground beside the thunderous Riu Monestero stream shone with pink marsh orchids and the apple-white flowers of grass of Parnassus. Shady corners behind boulders grew fern gardens and all around were butterflies coloured white, blue,

You can see them gliding along the valleys, searching for animals that have recently died in the unforgiving terrain 7

deep yellow, orange - and eveo all

Sitting above the little Monestero lake amongst the alpine meadows speckled with hlue scahious and 2ft-tall yellow geotians, with boulder-strewn slopes and high cliffs tiered above the valley sides, we thought it seemed the perfect hunting ground for a lammergeier. For hours we scanoed and rescanned with biooculars, hoping, hoping for the telltale dark vulture wings, the wedge-shaped tail and the around four hours. Information on the orange belly. But it was not to be. So, one more try. This time in a

steep-sided valley, part forested, part grassland, south of Vielha.

e drove for miles along a the head of the Flamicell river to the goats," said Toni Margalida, an expert tortuous track in the Riu south and - the way we used - Espot on the species who has been moving. on the species who has been monitoring them in this part of the Pyrenees for 10 years, and had joined us for the morning. He pointed past the high cliffs and forested slopes to a boulder scree perhaps a couple of miles away. Hereabouts, so the experts said, lammergeiers often patrol the hillsides looking for dead animals.

One hour went by, then two. Griffon vultures appeared, their huge, lightbrown wings keeping them aloft on the updrafts. A golden eagle did much the same. Even a brown-and-white shorttoed eagle (it beats me to understand how anyone gets close enough to see such anatomical detail), perched nearby oo an electricity pole.

Then came the cry we had waited nearly a week for.

"Lammergeier!" shouted Toni. almost as excitedly as if he, too, was seeing the hird for the first time. And there it was, through the binoculars and telescopes, a text-book image of a bone-breaker in flight: head down, wings held outstretched and still as it glided this way and that, rather ominously, above a huge flock of sheep being closely shepherded on high Pyrenean pastures.

As it glided closer, patrolling the steep cliffs above hanging forests, the orange-coloured chest and head - with the fearsome hlack beard markings became more and more obvious. The same size as the griffon vultures hanging in the air high above the mountain peaks, lammergeiers somehow look far more purposeful; more majestic, too.

It's a fitting bird for such a splendid mountain range. The long wait had been worth it.

The closest international airport to Vielha is Toulouse, across the border in France, but it is cheaper and easier to approach the area from Barcelona. EasyJet (01582 445566) has a return fare of between £103 and £153, with no restrictions; lower fares sell out first. From Barcelona, there is a daily bus to Vielha, taking Aigues Tortes National Park can be obtained from the Park's administration at Calle Camp de Mart 35, 25004 Lleida (00 34 73 246650). Spanish National



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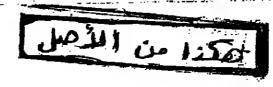
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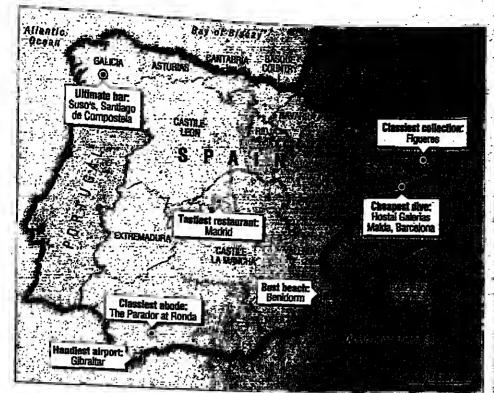
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# Seven Spanish superlatives



The Dali Museum: emerging from this madhouse you wonder who slipped what potion into your elevenses

### Where can you enjoy an awesome arc of beach, sleep (together) for £11 a night, visit a manic museum and more? Simon Calder offers a guide

arrogance. Spain is hlessed with 100 great museums, 1,000 fine beaches and at least a million convivial bars. Even if you strip away the offshore islands (the all-time favourite destinations for British package tourists), you are left with an embarrassment of candidates for the best beach or greatest gallery.

The doors to this touristic toyshop were properly opened only 20 summers ago, when democracy was restored after the death of the Fascist Franco. I was the next plane out. Since then Spain has become an all-too-easy addiction - and, like any addict, I am possessed by insufferable certainties.

#### Handiest airport

Britain's best travel bargain - package holidays in Spain - have a woefully outdated image of the country's airports. Malaga, for example, is no longer a collection of scruffy huts around an airstrip. The architects of the new terminal ist trail that Suso's bar is not as crowded embraced references from Andalusia's as it should be. So once you've traced it Moorish traditions and created a light, cool environment where much of the stress of air travel is borne away in the

Malaga has a handy rail link to the city it serves, and along the Costa del Sol. But for sheer, unadulterated touchdown to tapas ease, the winner must be Gibraltar.

The British colony's airport is strung out between the Rock and an easy place, the

sleepy frontier town of La Linea.
Remember that pre-fabricated school hut? Gibraltar airport is like that. With no great distances for you or your luggage to cover betweeo plane and exit, you can be sipping cerveza and tasting seafood within 10 minutes of the squeal of tyres. And if your early evening stretches into on Tarmac. Just remember to turn right

oncocting a tour of superlative (for Spain) rather than left (for Gibral-Spain constitutes the height of tar), and hope that Hispano-Gibraltarian relations are cordial. Otherwise you could have a long, thirsty wait at the border.

GB Airways flies frequently from Heathrow and Gatwick to Gibraltar, and on Sundays from Manchester. Book through British Airways on 0345 222111.

To find the best bar, yoo face a long journey to the extreme north west of Spain. And on the partygoer's pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, you could easily fail by the wayside, notably at the ultra-cool Nick Havanna in Barcelona (Philippe Starck touches and if-you-have-to-askprices); or the Palacio de Jamon, just west of the Puerta del Sol in Madrid, where Many of the people who are sniffy about ranks of whole hams hang like downcast members of a long bus queue, being cheerily devoured by nibbling drinkers.

Persevere, though, to the city of St

James. Santiago de Compostela is the end of the beaten track, so far from the tourin the backstreets behind the cathedral. there will probably be a spare bar stool on which you can wedge yourself against the stainless steel counter, your eyes on a level with an encylopaedic array of snacks.

"Keep it simple, Suso", seems to be the house motto: gambas a la plancha (grilled prawns), chorizo (bloody, rich sausage) calamares (hoops of squid) and tortilla (slabs of inch-thick omelette). The theory is that these are the meagre raciones to accompany aperitifs, but in the congenial company it is all too easy to forgo the option of dinner. One danger you are last orders, then you can always avail

yourself of a bed in the lodging house response from someone who recoils from spending £80 a night at any hotel.

Suso's bar and hostal, Rua del Vilar 65, Santiago de Compostela (00 34 81 586611).

#### Cheapest dive

There is still a country in the European Union where you can find a decent double room for a shade over £10 a night. Or, rather, there is now such a country. Sterling is performing spectacularly well against the peseta, which means that you get around 225 for your £1 compared with fewer than 200 a year ago. So this is going to be a long, cheap summer for visitors to Spain, particularly if they dwell at the Hostal Galerias Malda in Barcelona.

Rogues abound in the Catalan capital, not least among some of its hoteliers. If the pickpockets in the Ramblas don't get you, their partners in crime who charge £50 for grotty rooms may well. I discovered the happy habauciones in the heart of the city only after half-a-dozen visits to Barcelona, during which I paid too much for too little. One reason it took me so long to find the place is that the Galerias on sale at well under a pound a pint. in the title is a shopping arcade, buried away in the Carrer del Pi. Unless a good friend led you to the hostal on the upper floor, you would never believe it existed.

It is run by quite the friendliest family in Spain, who are unobtrusive when you want to be alone in your elegantly dated room, but hostly when you need company. For all this, and a location that cannot be bettered (200 metres from the Ramblas and the cathedral), you pay a few pence short of £11 for two.

Hostal Galerias Malda, Carrer del Pi,

Barcelona (QO 34 3 317 3002).

#### Classiest abode

Would you swap a week in the Hostal Galerias Malda for a night at the parador in Ronda? Probably, once you see this new addition to the Spanish government's repertoire of luxurious botels in historic properties. This one has a miraculous location, perched on the gorge that rips through the hilltop town of Ronda, high above the rest of Andalucía. The ancient foundations of the old town hall have been amplified in honeyed rock, merging perfectly with the sandstone cliffs.

If the parador has a problem, it is of being a degree too perfect. The rooms are a fraction too well-appointed, the restaurant a tad too fancy. But you'd expect that

Parador de Ronda, Plaza de España, Ronda (00 34 5 287 7500).

#### Best beach

Disdainers of the cheap package should move en masse to the Costa de la Luz, that splendid unspoilt strand that broadly connects Portugal with Gibraltar by way of Cape Trafalgar. This coast is hullied by the Atlantic, so they will certainly be chillier than the mass of us who make for the Mediterranean.

For my Spanish holiday this summer, I have hought a Skytours package in the resort with the best beach on the mainland: Benidorm. This awesome arc of clean and genuinely golden sand would be a magnificent specimen of beach any-where in the world; its added appeal is that it is two hours from Gatwick, 10 min-utes from grand Valencian scenery and 20 metres from some cracking bars. Carlsberg - probably the best lager in the world? Not with San Miguel and Estrella

#### **Tastiest restaurant**

Fights have broken out over the best places to eat in Lloret de Mar, let alooe the whole of Spain. In a country where it is difficult not to dine well for a fiver, you have to search hard for a place where an extra dimension is added to the virtues of wholesome food, prepared imaginatively and served with verve.

The answer lies in an obscure corner of Madrid, An eccentric Basque Surrealist named Abraham Garcia founded Restaurant Viridiana, specialising in exquisite nouvel Español cuisine delivered with theatrical panache, Performances begin with a pyrotechnic fruit salad, the melon decorated with a small incendiary device. It arrives with a fig leaf bearing a message of good wishes from the kitchen inscribed in piped cream. Then the evening ignites. Book in advance on 00 34 1 356 9040. Viridiana is well away from the centre of the

city at Fundadores 23, close to Manuel Becerra metro station.

#### Classiest collection

Skytours is a budget brand of Thomson street in Madrid has three of the finest

Prado, the eclectic Thyssen-Bornemisza and the clinical Reina Sofia, venue for Picasso's Guernica. Pablo is also well represented across io Barcelona, with an entire museum devoted to him. His fellow Catalan, Joan Miró, gets a good show-

ing here, too.

The greatest of all, though, is further up the Mediterranean coast in the otherwise unlovely town of Figueres. Clear winner of the "who's the craziest artist in Catalonia, then?" competition was Salvador Dali, whose vision of Surrealism has come to its illogical conclusion at the Teatro-Museo Dali. The "theatre" refers to the setting, the old town theatre. The "museum" conceals the vitality of the fun palace where Dali is huried. A black Cadillac holds court in the centre, sporadically getting drenched from an inter-nal shower. Mae West is commemorated in a houdoir of her own, where the furniture comprises her features.

By the time you emerge from this madhouse, you are wondering quite who slipped what potion into those chocolate The toughest category of all. A single y churros you enjoyed for elevenses.

Teatro-Museo Dali, Rambla, Fig.







## Wild flowers for a Tudor farmhouse

Workshop: Anna Pavord advises on the best use for an odd patch in your garden

he house that my husband and I live in is a farmhouse dating back to late Tudor times. It was a family property that had been allowed to become virtually derelict and when we started work on it six years ago, the whole started work on a six years ago, are whose lot needed restoring including the gardens which were overgrown. The house, which is listed Grade 11\*, is now mostly finished. We run the farm as a business producing

we run inc jurm as a business producing free-range eggs, and also keep sheep. With mechanical and human help, the garden has been partially tarned, but there is a section in front of the house that I have left, mainly because of lack of inspiration.

The main problem with this part of the

The main problem with this part of the garden is soil depth. The house was built on natural rock and, in parts, it is impossible to dig holes to plant shrubs etc. This section of the garden was formerly paved with a raised central bed. A lot of the old broken paving is on or just under the surfince and I have toyed with the idea of having gravel interspersed with some beds, but am not at all sure it would look richt. am not at all sure it would look right.

The other section of the front garden is now crazy paving and raised beds and looks good, so perhaps it would be better to continue this theme. However, I find crazy paving very difficult to sweep clean. The side and back gardens are lawn and flower beds, with a vegetable garden beyond.

Chris and Liz Carnac's farm is at Llanvetherine, just outside Abergavenny. This is the patch where I was born and brought up, where uncles and cousins farmed a landscape of hills, red earth and castle ruins. In this border country, castles are two a penny. But there was another good reason to go there at this time of year. The road leads past one of the most spectac-

ular magnulias in the country. It sits, hizarrely, in the forecourt of the small Elf garage by the houndary of the Chepstow racecourse. I'd guess it was originally part of the garden at St Arvan's Lodge behind, planted perhaps when the house was built. It looks like Magnolia x soulangiana which was raised by M Soulange-Bodin at Fromont near Paris angle of ground, on the right hand side barns that lie just the other side of the with only a thin skim of earth over



would fit the house, by the look of it.

Carnac inherited from her aunt, is much more ancient. With a grant from CADW (the Welsh equivalent of English Heritage) they have slowly been reinstating oak mullioned windows, repointing the massively thick rubble walls, uncovering the original fireplaces which have vast overmantels, probably dragged here from the ruins of White Castle nearby.

The problem patch is a long, thin tri-

early in the 19th century. That date as you approach the house. One long side of the triangle is bounded by the new The Carnacs' farmhnuse, which Liz drive, which is dressed with crushed stone. Its short side butts straight on to the right of the front door. The other long patch will ever be much used. And, like side of the triangle rises steeply to the lane in a rough bank, impenetrably thick with blackthorn, bramble and elder. It's a tongue of ground that is unconnected visually to any other part of the garden, but important as a foreground to the fascinating and imposing huilding behind.

Because the Carnacs are selling the

fect answer. They are too often made on

bedrock. More crazy paving or gravel

rich ground where the flowers quickly get choked out by weeds. But here, the circumstances were ideal. And a little wild flower meadow would make an entirely appropriate foreground for this ancient house, grass thick with milkmaids, cowslips and wild hlue cranesbills, lady's hedstraw, ox-eye daisies and scabious. Buttercups might be a mistake, but agri-mony, trefoil, bugle, ragged rohin, vetch and yarrow would all be worth including. Clover, the modern kind, anyway, is too aggressive for most flowery meads.

Only one more element would be needed: a hig, nld pear tree. This was unashamedly nostalgic. The farms I knew round those parts used to have orchards close to the house, the spring view from kitchens, parlours and bedrooms, with their dipping eaves, always containing the tall, graceful 'outline of a pear dressed overall in piercingly white hlossom.

The pear would have to be planted as

a standard or a half-standard, with a tall, straight trunk of at least 4-6ft before any branches broke from it. And it would have to be grafted (as pear standards usually are) on to wild pear stock rather than the more common quince. Wild pear stock

can cope with poor ground. Quince can't.

If no opening revealed itself in the
bedrock where a hole could be dug to plant it, I recommended the Carnacs should adopt the 18th-century technique and mound plant a pear tree next autumn. That means breaking up the surface of the ground, spreading the roots out carefully else to look after besides the garden. They are not looking for more things to do.

So the patch had to be fairly trouble-free, while providing an appropriate setting for the house. It should meld with the and then mounding up soil on top of the roots, so that it makes a shallow-sided hill. You need to water well through the first summer. Gradually the roots will work

their way down through cracks in the rock. The site needs clearing and grading slightly before it is seeded, but it shouldn't look lawn-smooth. The ground is com-

pacted as a result of the building work on might be too harsh here given the gravel the house. But a small three-ton JCB drive, the stone walls all around and the could pick out the lnose stone lying cliff-like stone façade of the house itself. around on the surface and then the patch I rarely think a flowery mead the per-ect answer. They are too often made on ready for the seed to be be broadcast in late summer or early autumn.

The soil is neutral, so the grasses in the seed mix (which are usually 80 per cent grasses, 20 per cent wild flowers) could include sheep's fescue, small-leaved timothy and smooth meadow grass, with flowers such as bird's-foot trefoil, black knapweed, campanula, cowslip, self-heal and wild carrot as well as the ones I mentioned above. You need about three grams of seed to cover a square metre.

The elements of a seed mixture can be changed to fit any situation. On this particular site, I'd he inclined to ask for a higher proportion of flowers to grass, although it would make the mix a hit more expensive. A standard blend costs around £30 a kilo. Or the Carnacs could buy seed of the wild flowers they particularly liked and mix their own meadow. White campion costs about £2 for 10grams. Purple oosestrife is £5 for 10 grams.

The meadow should not be cut until

August, when seed of the wild flowers will have been shed. Then, depending on how tidy they want it to look, the Carnacs could give the turf one nr two more cuts through the autumn, so that in spring the first wild flowers emerge spangled against tight-cropped turf. The final touch would be a low wall, hull with the stone from off the patch, to mark the line between mead and drive and match the existing wall which runs along the front of the house to the left of the front door.

Wild flower seed: Flower Farms, Carvers Hill Farm, Shalbourne, Murlborough, Will-shire SN8 3PS (01672 870782). They offer a consultancy service (01635 247666) and workshops on planting wild flower mead-ows, eg on 10 and 19 June (2pm-5pm), fee £25. Pear trees grafted on to wild pear stock: Scotts Nurseries, Merriott, Somerset TA16 5PL (01460 72306).

staging a grand Theatre of

will be a hig display of Cornish daffodils, including

Flowers at the Lost Gardens of Heligan, St Austell, Cornwall, Friday 11-Sunday 13 April The centre-piece

### gardening



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PHOTOGRAPH: ROB STRATTON

drive (they will be converted into two

houses), and have plenty of sheltered

ground to sit into the side and back of the

house, it did not seem to me that this odd

most farmers, the Carnacs have plenty

wilderness of blackthorn at its back, and

be planted with something that can cope

The Alpine Garden Society is holding a show today

(11.30am-4.30pm) at the Arnold and Carlton College

Spring-cleaning should be extended to house plants which have been on board wages all winter. Take off dead leaves and wipe over the surfaces of large-leaved plants, such as rubber plants, with a damp cinth. Repot in fresh compost. They will not necessarily need larger containers. Ease away some. nid compost from the roots of the plants before settling them in the new mixture.

Indoor plants will need more food and drink than during winter. Remember, though, that more fatalities are caused by over-watering than by under-watering. Some plants, such as

Christmas present cyclamen, are coming to the end of

of Further Education, Digby Avenue, Mapperley,
Nottingham. There will be
shows of primula, cyclamen,
saxifrage, frifillaries and
dwarf rhododendrons, plus alpine plants from all over the world. Admission £1

The Cornwall Garden Society held its first Daffodil and Spring Flower Exhibition in 1897, and to celebrate its centenary it is

old varieties written about by Tresco's owner, Algernon Dorrien-Smith, in the 1890s. and modern hybrids hred and introduced by Cornish growers. The show is npen daily, 10am-6pm. Admission £6 (01726 844157).

### Weekend work

their display. Put the pots nn their sides in some cool place (eg under the staging of a greenhouse) to allow corms to dry off for the summer. They can be started into growth again in the autumn.

Indoor azaleas that have finished flowering can be put outside now. Azaleas are hardy plants, and are far happier outside than in. Plunge the pot into a cool, shady place and feed the azalea through the summer. You may get hlooms again before the spring is through, though most forced plants

need a season to recover before they can get into their flowering stride again. Split up large clumps of snowdrops and replant in smaller groups to increase their spread. A handful of bonemeal in the planting bole will provide lung-term rations for the bulbs.

Choose hardy annuals to sow direct into the ground where they are to flower. I generally sow English marigolds, Calendula officinalis, this way. This year I'm trying prolifera (Chiltern, £1.05), the hen-and-chickens variety with secondary flowers, borne on stalks that spring out just underneath the head of the main double



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Holton's flock, bred solely for their wool, have captured the imagination of the

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## Shear style in Somerset

### Katherine Hamnett is making rare sheep chic, writes Matthew Brace

the straw, sending dust float-ing up through the rays of sunlight The outspoken designer who cre-ated the fashioo of slogao T-shirts the straw, sending dust floating. Gioa III, a heavily pregnant ewe, was about to give birth. Her woters had broken and two of her lamh's hooves could he seen protruding from hetween her legs. One of the world's rarest breeds of sheep was about to have its oumbers

boosted. The flock's owner, Sally Holton, looked tense. She encouraged Gina III: "Come on, old girl, it'll be a lot better once you get it over with." But wrong. Mrs Holton hurdled the low wall of Gina IIT's enclosure, held her firmly by the scruff of the neck, graphed the lamb's hooves and began to pull. In a flash, two lambs were lying hewildered and blinking in the sunlight, being licked clean by

They were the new generation of Wensleydales and their wool, bloody and straw-caked at hirth, was destined to cloak the shoulders of supermodels on the catwalks of London, Paris and Milan, Mrs Holton's flock, bred solely for their wool, have captured the imagination of the fashion designer Katharine

here was uproar in the harn. Hamnett, who cannot get ecough of tional medicine. Once the sheep Ewes and their lambs paced in the silky, lustrous fleeces with their are sborn, the wool is then washed,

> calling on people to "Preserve the Rainforests" has turned to grass roots in the English countryside to seek out environmentally-friendly moterials for her knitwear. "The wool is exceptionally soft,"

> says Katharine Hamnett. "The quality is wonderful, more like mohair. We are delighted with the results."
>
> Some of her designs using
>
> Wensleydale wool were paraded at the Winter 1993/94 Milan fashion running up and down," Mrs Holton

Her wool is about as ecologically sound as raw materials get. The sheep are reared traditionally and organically in the Somerset village of Stoke suh Hamdon.

"We don't like this crash-hangwallop style of today's farming," she says. "We don't even use a dog. When we are gathering them up, all we have to do is call them and they come running."

The farm uses no synthetic chemicals or antibiotics and practices hanging by the wall: onion-skin homeopathy rather than conven- orange, woad blue and others.

combed and spun, avoiding all the chemical processes of cooventional wool production. The dyes all come from plants growing locally, which Mrs Holton gathers by hand. Most afternoons you can catch sight of her rummaging through the hedgerows along the hanks of Ham Hill, over-looking the village.
The floor of Mrs Holtoo's office,

in a cramped farm outbuilding next to her home, is cluttered with steel bowls full of soaking green walouts, tree bark, gnarled roots and petals. "We experiment, using old recipes it was taking too long; something was show. "Next to Armani and Gucci, from the 1600s for our dyes. We there were our little hits of knitwear really don't know what we'll get when we soak various twigs or herbs.

It's very exciting."

She dips her hand into a sweet jar full of colourless, bone-dry lichen. "This is oak moss. If you ferment this in natural ammonia - you know, urine - for about two weeks, the water will turn the deepest emperor purple. But if you hoiled it now it would be hright yellow," she says. "So every shank of wool or knitted garment we produce has its own unique colour." She runs through a line of coloured shanks of wool

The Holton-Hamnett partnership has meant that at a time when many rare breeds of farm animal are on the brink of extinction, this line, at least, is being saved. Wensleydales are described by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust as being "at risk", If their numbers drop further they will become "vulnerable", then "endangered", and finally "critical", before vanishing, taking with them 200

years of farming history.

Long-wool Wensleydales can he traced back to the late 18th century wheo their ancestors would have been plentiful across England, although the family tree of the white wool sheep, from which Wensleydales have come, dates even further back, before records were kept - to Roman times when. it is thought, they were introduced to Britain.

The Trust's national field officer, Peter Kiog, helieves that Mrs Holton's flock is proof of the worth of rare breeds. "The link with fashion can only do good for the breed and for rare breeds in general, and it helps to explode the myth that breeds are rare because they are use-

less," he says.
"Rare breeds are every hit as valuable as stately homes. Each one has fascinating attributes. None

of us can say what will be needed in 100 years' time, so the more biodiversity in farm animals we have, the

Mrs Holtoo is proud to have deliberately discarded modern methods and returned to the roots of rural tradition. "One of the reasons we do this is to show that we can produce a top-class product in a chemicalfree environment. You can be commercially viable just by changing hack to older, traditional ways," she

"I just can't stand the state that we have all got to, the way we live our lives. The way we have lost touch with nature and with reality. Everyone seems to be out for themselves, moving faster and faster and not caring about the world around

However, husiness does demand a certain amount of modern thought, Mrs Holton does own a fax machine, which lately has been spitting out valuable orders from huyers in Taiwan - the home of synthetic goods - who are interested in her home-grown wool and Hamnett's designs, and willing to pay large amounts for them. Enough to keep Glna III's two new lambs in homeopathic medicine for quite o

#### Clay pigeons came whizzing out like dots in the stratosphere

o Highelere Castle, seat of the Earls of Carnarvon, for a grand blast-off at clay-pigeons. Two specific requests from the management set this apart from an ordinary day's shooting. First, everybody should bring a hand-guard or glove, as gun barrels would become too hot to hold. Second, everybody should wear a hat, since hroken clays, falling from unexpected directions, can

cause nasty injuries. With these and a few more instructions, our genial organiser Wendy Plummer lannched the party into a brilliant spring morning. A veteran of simulated game shooting, Wendy is now in her sixth year of laying on this kind of day. For Highclere, on the other

hand, it was an experiment. With its splendid Victorian castle in an undulating, 3,000-acre park, the estate has every natural advantage for corporate entertaining, and the aim of our day was to see if this kind of shoot would fit into the pattern of activities.

The guns, 16 in all, had been allocated into eight pairs, each with a loader, and had drawn for places, as on a live hird shoot. At the first drive, pegs were set out in a line along the hottom of a sloping grass hank. Out of our sight, at the top, six traps were deployed under the control of the operations manager, Roo Puttock.

The guns took it in turns to shoot, and the drive, lasting only six minutes, was done twice over. If that sounds parsimonious, it takes no account of bow sharply adrenalin levels rise as clays start to pour over. When the whistle went,

the rate of fire was instantly terrific: within less than a minute, barrels were too hot to hold with bare hands, and after six minutes several of the marksmen were temporarily exhausted, declaring that they could not have gone on a moment longer. During that fearsome harrage the coolest person on the scene was Wendy herself, who strolled up and down behind the line, constantly adjusting the flow of clays by radio contact with Ron. "Raise trap two a bit ... Get some pairs out over pegs three and four. Five's a novice. Give him low singles." After the drive she

remarked, "That was the



easy hit. Now we'll go somewhere more testing. This was Heaven's Gate, o towering bank scattered with hig trees. Here the clays came whizzing out like dots in the stratosphere, and it took an ace marksman to break them.

One such was Peter Baxendale, who manages shooting lets for Strutt & Parker. In six searing minutes he missed seven clays and broke about 70 but then, as he shoots all winter, so he should. Lord Porchester, elder son of the Earl of Carnarvon, also scored heavily and admitted that he was amazed by the excitement which the hlastoff engendered.

As people recovered their equilibrium over bull-shots and sloe gin, I asked several what advantage there was, or might be, in spending £3,500 of their companies money on such a jolly. Tim Ingram Hill, chairman and chief executive of RoadChef, reckoned it good value, "A day like this relaxes people a great deal." he said. "You see o different side of them." Whom might he invite? "People we're working with - our bonkers. solicitors, construction people: some who have entertained us, others we'd like to do husiness with."

During the morning there was much talk about the Castle's chef, Mark Greenfield, and by 1pm people were openly wondering whether lunch would justify his high regutation. With Van Dyck's magnificent equestrian portrait of Charles I glowering down on us, we feasted on salmon tartare, home-culled venison, lemon mousse and cheese - a meal so stylish and protracted that the afternoon's shooting had to be curtailed

from two drives to one. I do oot think anyone minded. On the final bank serious poaching hroke out as everybody merrily began shooting his neighbour's hirds. "That's one of the points about this," remarked William Asprey, manager of the London gun-makers, as we headed for home. "You can do that here. But if you did it on a live game day, you'd never be asked again."

Clay days can be arranged through Plummer Dixon Associates, Sherborne, Cheltenham, Glos GL54 3DR (01451 844714).

## The trainer turned bystander

John Bosely, elder statesman of racing, has a detached view of today's Grand National. By Richard D North

ohn Bosely, who ot 66 is an elder statesman among J National Hunt trainers, never really made it to the hig time. This Oxfordshire man, regarded with affection as someone who loved horses and horse people, was never one to put moncy-making first. "I don't think the racing ever made much money. But we were farmers too," he says. Last month, the mitd Mr

Bosely retired, so he notes the runners of this weekend's Grand National at Aintree with a degree of detachment. -My son Martin runs the stables now," he says, and, beyond helpiog out from time to time, he is free to consider a return to huoting. "I haven't ridden this season, but I won't say I've given up." It is hard to tell which is uppermost in his trainer he once shot out the mind and voice: intended mischief or regretted caution.

Huoting is one of the few determinedly dangerous pastimes of the middle-aged. But then, John Bosely was a serious amateur jockey before he took up training. He knows the horrors of the Grand National: "I feli at the 14th on Dark Stranger in 1955," he says. His scrapbook has a picture of him in mid-air, upside down above his horse's head. It wasn't the fall that fractured his skull in 1959 and forced his retirement from riding. of newsprint it is vividly



Rooted in country ways, John Bosley

Liverpool before the Grand National. Bosely was regularly amongst the leaders in his young days. Even more confident in his own county, as a searchlights of Brize Norton RAF airfield. This time it was not high jinks that motivated him: the lights were disturbing one of his fancled runners before a hig race.

The son of o farmer and huicher, who was a bookie when off-course betting was illegal, Bosely is a stoutly yeoman figure, whom it is hard to imagine at a jockey's weight. In the Fifties and Sixties he was rare among amateur jockeys. "Most of the amateurs were real gentlemen, lords even." He did not harbour delusions but even in a yellowing piece of grandcur: "I never wanted a sports car or anything."

The husiness of hetting your Also in the scrapbook is the shirt on something as inhertraditional scene of a hard- ently unreliable as a horse, let

flight on tin trays down the competition of several horses, stairs of the Adelphi Hotel in attracts chancers and charmers. Bosely is not the sort to mourn the old days. "It's as much fun as ever," he says, hut ooe has the feeling that he rather disapproves of the way "it's a husiness oow. People come in and think they'll make money." The more rational view is that owning horses should be indulged in only by people who can afford to lose what they invest, if "investment" is quite the word for watching money being turned into hot breath on an early

RICHARD O NORTH

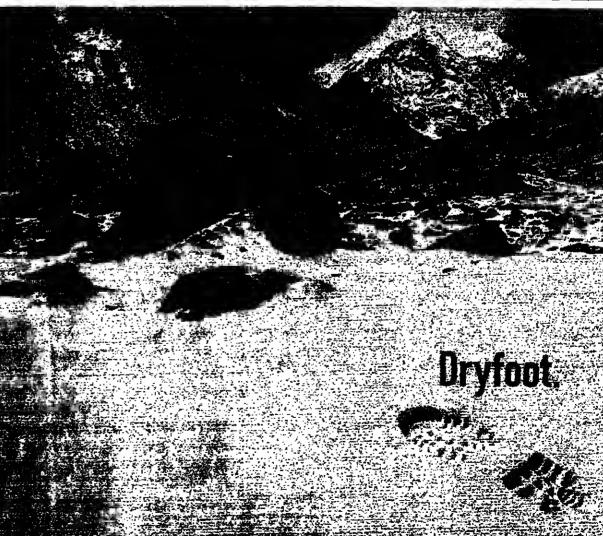
morning canter. Betting, by the way, is generally governed by the reverse proposition; you haven't had a bet until you are very fearful of the outcome. Bosely hardly ever hets: seeing it from the bookie's point of view must have robbed it of its

Racing has become more democratic, he thinks. "Years ago, only the wealthy owned living pack of jockeys in full alone on the outcome of the horses. Now even people in ways.

factories may join e syndicate and pay something like £20 or £30 a week." On such a basis, someone with £1,800 to spare could huy into a well-hred horse with a long Bosely and Grand National lineage. John's son Martin, who runs the Bosely outfit at Kingston Lisle Farm, just over the hill from the glamorous spreads at Lambourn, has on offer shares in Smart Lord and Lady Malord, whose grand dam was Eyecatcher. This Boselyowned and trained horse was third to Red Rum at Aintree in 1976 and 1977. The stables charges modest fees and does not yet attract the Arah owner, or the flashier or grander sort.

glamour. decently rooted in its country

From now on, it will be Martin who fields the calls from anxious owners, and John Bosely is glad of that, though he and his wife Sylvia will be in demand for the parties which have kept the stables' punters more than sweet for decades. It was at one such bash at Warwick races last month when Martin, a noted jockey himself, cleaned up in the tipsters' competition. John is proud of the family side of things: "It is quite something to see your son win on a horse you own, hred and trained." He now has a grandson entering the fray as an amateur jockey - so another game youngster with oo pretensions to be a nob and entirely without side will help keep the rocing game



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GET BUT AND STAY BUT

## Home is where the art is

Buying pictures can be daunting but more people want to include art along with soft furnishings when creating a particular style in their homes, writes **Sally Staples**. The popularity of Art 97 – the London Contemporary Art Fair, sponsored by 'The Independent', showed that you can be an enthusiast without being an expert. There are plenty of serious collectors about but today novice buyers are increasing their share of the market. Whether pictures are bought from gallenes or by mail order, what is hanging on your walls really matters.

unkempt and casual in an inexpensive sort of way aod your faltering steps to the clothes' rails will he frozeo hy a designer grande dame asking icily if she can help vou.

What of course she really means is: -Haven't you walked into the wrong shop?" No matter that you may have an American Express Gold Card oestling in your Gucci purse. If you don't look the part, the unwritten rule for the staff is to intimidate you.

Most of us have experieoced this where clothes are concerned. But does the same thing happeo in art galleries? In the snohhish world of culture is the novice picture huver simply too nervous to make enquiries for fear of being thought a fool?

Lindsay Butler, who runs the Coram Gallery in Loodon, which exhibits contemporary work, believes some heavyweight galleries can seem very daunting. "If you look through the window and see a rather stern-faced girl sitting at an empty desk with just one picture on the wall and oothing else in the room at all it can be rather difficult to make an approach," she says.

"We try to be frieodly, explaio where things are and theo leave peo-ple alone. Wheo customers buy a paioting they do like to take away the artist's CV and they enjoy talking about their 'discovery'. It is good dinner party chat and people do seem to want that anecdotal quality shout pictures they buy. Maoy customers have no knowledge of art but I hope they don't feel iotimidated when they

come to hrowse."

A number of Lindsay's clients are barristers from surrounding legal chamhers and they often come io search of something that will complement their homes. "People do think very hard other week who didn't decide to buy space above the sofa."

So how about the unthreatening world of mail order art? Joanna Prosser, a huyer for Art Room, a mail order outfit, believes that many people slyly ridicule their ignorance or rip them scream when you sit oo it.

tep into the Armani Empo- off. She is in the husiness of hringing rium in Knightsbridge looking art to people who don't necessarily know a Degas from a Dali but who want to furnish their houses with pretty prints of famous works.

But pictures are not the only feature. You may be after a framed print of Monet's Sunlight Under the Poplars or theo agaio you might prefer a shower curtain depicting Botticelli's Veous complete with scallop shell curtain rings or even a pair of Mona Lisa boxer shorts. The Art Room catalogue aims to please everyone from the purist to the joker. A tall order perhaps, but so far Ms Prosser claims it is doing very well. And indeed there are plans to expand into Europe.

Art Room has been running for three years and produces four catalogues annually. It is owned by Historical Collections, the company behind Past Times, the highly successful chain store where people browse through enchanting Victorian knick knacks in cosy surroundings to the sound of mediaeval

Joanna, who works as a huyer for Art Room, says that Past Times originally perceived a niche in the market for framed pictures of quality. "There was gap between people who wanted a limited edicon print from a gallery and those who bought pictures of Inrid floral scenes in department stores.

There is a hoge market for furnishing homes and people are very nervous about pictures. A lot of what is available is a rip-off and you see photographic prints selling at £40 when they are oot worth more than £5. "The Art Room catalogue is there for

people who are looking for the drawngs of Michelangelo and it is there for someone who wants a picture to match the pink curtains. And what is wroog with that?"

This is borne out by the variety of products. The catalogue offers a framed reproduction of Michelangelo's central about where they will hang a picture reproduction of Michelangelo's central before huying it. We had a chap in the panel of the Sistine Chapel for £115. Unframed it is £29.95 which is the same until he had gone home to measure the price as a pair of Leocardo cuff-links depicting the artist's "Study for the Proportions of the Human Body".

You can order a Mooa Lisa cushion that chuckles when you squeeze it (£19.95) or, if you prefer surrealism, who want to huy pictures are pro-foundly totimidated by experts who will Munch's *The Scream?* And yes, it does

There is even a magnetic version of Michelangelo's David which stands just eight inches high and comes complete with varying sets of stick-oo clothes. There is sporty David, casual David and eveo drag qoeen David. Well if it gets kids into art galleries, perhaps it is for-

Joanna says there are very few complaints about the Art Room products. Those who are sniffy about some of their lines are divided into two categories, she says. Firstly there are the purists who object to the way some paintings are framed and protest, for example, that oil paintings should not have mounts. Then there are those who feel some of the marketing is disrespectful and find it upsetting to see the Sistine Chapel emblazooed on the inside of an umbrella. But carping is minimal.

The catalogues slip out of such august magazines as Harpers & Queen, World of Interiors and Vogue. Art Room's research has indicated that people who buy pictures from galleries to not necessarily regard mail-order art as down-market.

Although 95 per cent of the busi-oess is mail order the Art Room does have a sbop in Guildford, Surrey, which sells a wider range of goods, from postcards of Old Masters and Alma Tadema posters to jigsaws of Vermeer's *Lacemaker*, Lloyd Wright scarves, Joao Miró sponges and eveo a pop-up book of Botticelli characters, which ostensibly can aid the GCSE history of art studeot. Though quite where one would put a 26 inch reproduction of the Venus de Milo (price:

£175) is not immediately obvious. If you buy a print from the Art Room catalogue it will arrive with a short history of the painter, his work and where you can go to see it printed oo the back. This, says Joanna, may well embolden the novice art collector to venture into a gallery and increase his knowledge.

"Our aim is to demystify art," she explains. It is, in a way, rather like Sainshury's attempts to demystify wine by telling customers which wines are dry and which full bodied and which goes well with fish or spaghetti. And many a grateful drinker might echo the Art Room philosophy: "What is wrong

The Art Room catalogue can be obtained by telephoning 01993-770444.

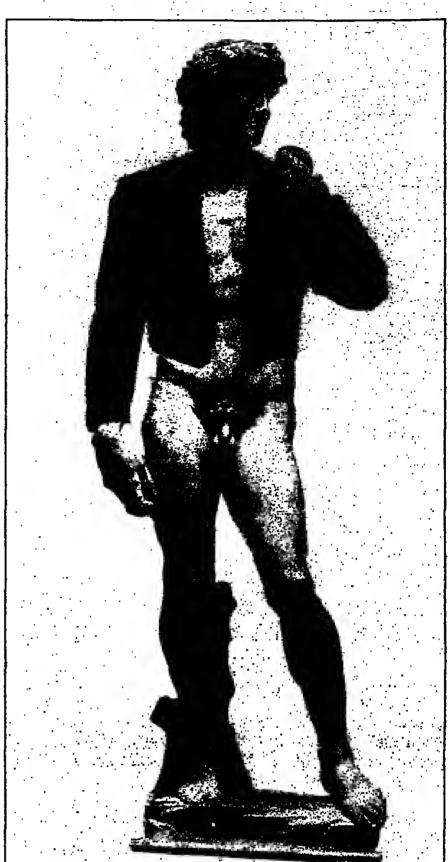
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Miniature Michaelangelo: the David fridge-magnet

House and Home

## Blues in all colours

any contemporary artists are and ious that their work should not be viewed as esoteric and enjoy they appreciation of the amateur just as much as praise from the professional
John Bull, one of Britain's leading juzz

painters, was drawn to his subject because he found the world of jazz so democratic

unlike the world of art.

A former graphic designer he took up

painting seven years ago at the age of 40 and his striking images of jazz heroes set in seedy smokey backgrounds have won him a wide range of fans.

His laid-back approach appeals to the project collector and the interpretation of the interpretation of the interpretation and the interpretation of the interpretation and the interpretation

novice collector and the jazz enthusiast as much as it does to the art lover. "There is a sort of mystique about the work but there is no deep hidden meaning. I would love some-one to explain my paintings to me," he says with his tongue firmly in his cheek.

"I didn't realise how rigid the art world was until I started painting and reading the critics. There are very strong divisions in attitude. You don't find that in jazz. If someone likes what I do it's great. If they hate it that's all right too. It's so good to have a straightforward reaction. One of the reasons I left graphic design was because just about the most positive thing a client would say is: 'I have no problem with that'."

Bull, who paints in oils on wood and canvas, composes his nocturnal jazz scenes in a studio overlooking a beautiful Wiltshire valley - and keeps the curtains closed while

he is working.
His latest exhibition at Gallery 27 io Cork Street, London, opens on April 7th and includes some 50 paintings and drawings of jazz characters including Miles Davis, Billie Holiday, John Coltrane, Chet Baker and Theionius Monk. Prices range from £500 for

a drawing to around £2,000 for a painting. The Contemporary Print Show, which opens at Londoo's Barbicao Centre on. April 18th offers the best of a specialist art fair and a long running exhibition taking

io more than 700 prints by 200 artists. Some 20 galleries will exhibit work including the Alan Cristea Gallery which has a now digital ink jet print by David Hockney and CCA Galleries who will be showcasing a selection of artists including Annora Spence, Donald Hamilton Fraser, Terry Frost, Philip Spare and Libby January.

Admission is free and there is ample opportunity to browse among the eogravings, etchings, lithngraphs and screen prints which represent a variety of both abstract and conceptual work. There should be something for everyone at this exhibition which runs until May 10th and prices appropriately range from £50 to

Sally Staples

For full details of the Contemporary Print Show see the 'Eye'

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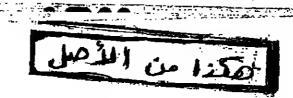
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# Silk from celluloid

He looked moody and mean, but Ralph Fiennes never lost his style in The English Patient. Now, writes Melanie Rickey, all men can follow suit

enigmatic looks that the look, created for Ralph Fiennes as Count Laslo de Almasy in The English Patient, which helped the film's costumier, Ann Roth, win her first Oscar. The inspiration for the star's clothes came in part from the Duke of Windkor, one of the greatest treodsetters for meo ever, (he is reputed to have popularised the knife pleat trousers seam in his day), and also from his tailor, Mr Halsey of Savile.

In fact, says Ann Roth: "Ralph was fitted for his clothes by the very man who once fitted Gary Cooper and Fred Astaire in the 1930's". And you can't get much

more stylish than that. But it is our hero's less structured clothes, not the Savile Row tailnring, which have inspired meo into a serious re-think of their image with the full eocouragement and sometimes hrute force of their partners. There is something irrepressibly charming and timeless about a man in a crumpled linen suit. Now that Ralph has played that part and women have expressed the desire to trade in their partners for a Count Laalo de Almasy lookalike, men can nn longer get away with a walk-oo part proffering Kleenex to tearful amorata in

They've got in take some style tips from coolly pas-sionate, quiet, irresistible

They can do more than observe the panache with which Ralph slips in and out of his jacket or how Willem Dafoe as the broody Caravaggio sports his shirts. They can take a trip to the High

Street and their local Jaeger rics for their clothes, all of

Jaeger spnnsored the film"a gala npening in March and has continued to promote the film throughout the country with window displays such as the one above. It just so hap- feel, like chest pieces for pens that Jaeger has been selling the English Patient "look" for some time - Eng-lish classics are their thing our particularly fashion cooafter all. However, it took a company representative who saw the film in America to spot the connection (particu- wants to look up-to-date larly with their summer col- without being faddy". lection), and go for the spoo-

sorship deal. for the film, their version of more modern and up-beat. search of Kristin Scott-Jaeger still use natural fab- Thomas.

which are sourced within Europe and made in Scotland. Mark Hooper their Menswear Director says: "We don't cut corners. Small details you can't see, but can structure are important to us, as is finish". The Jaeger scious, "he is not cutting edge, nf course he's nnt," says Hooper, "but he still

And he's just the sort of man whn would buy a gor-Jaeger did not make clothes geous crumpled linen suit and go venturing off to the Sahara The English Patient look is desert for a holiday - or in

The English Patient connection is working well for the company. They have produced a silk/linen three burtoo single breasted suit with a pleated turn-up trouser, and pure cotton shirts and suits in both natural stone and heige colunrs and clean, hright shades such as sage and nutmeg - all of which are featured in their window displays. (Incidentally, silk/linen dnes crumple, but nnt as crisply as 100 per cent linen garments, and is much softer on the skin.)

Women are oot left out. They get their chance to look as cool as Kristin with a range at Jaeger Women.

Taking fashioo tips from hot movies is not new, but for a change, at least, it's easy.



AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE FROM MARCH 14TH

stirs up so many painful memories for him? Answers should be sent on a postcard stating personal details and inside leg, waist and chest measurements to: English Patient Competition Janine Walton

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Jaeger window from left:

\$270.00 HEKT! £55.00 TROUSERS \$130.00

### Under the counter with Lindsay Calder

## How a shopping spree can leave you feeling run down

ad I not spent that extra half hour deciding whether I was a 34C or a 36h with the fitter in the bra department, it would never have happened. I would not have been late, and would not have been knocked down by

a hlack cab. I was feeling euphoric, after having discovered that a painting I had bought. in a junk-shop for £60 was worth £500, sn after leaving Sotheby's I had bit of a Bond Street binge with this new meotal credit of £440, which ended with a final fluurish of Visa-flexing in Ferwick. Anyway, as it was now far too late to even think of taking a bus, I hailed this cah...

Big mistake. My cabbie had always minded his own business all his life, and oever bothered anyone else, and he was taking a letter - in person - to that John Major, he was, so he was, and to that European Court if it came to it, after what "they" done to him. Who "they" were and what "they" dooe, I was unable to ascertain, but it seemed to be something to do with a "coupla-million". As he became more and more manic about this, I was rather regretting my move to the dicky seat behind him. I had been lured, you see, by what I oow realise was his last entrapment tactic to make you listen to his lunatic rantings - Burt; a ten year old

the cab, because he got depressed oo his own at home. As I had shown great interest in Burt, by moving closer to get a better view of him, the cabbie seemed to think that I would also be interested in his own annoying existence. That must must rue the day he showed signs of depression

When I finally arrived at my destination, I was so relieved to be out of this cab from hell that I ran across the road and whack! was knocked down hy another taxi.

He didn't have time to brake - my hip carried out that function for him - it also

killed me, hut then, in what he described as an "act of self preservatioo", I apparently sprang up onto my feet. So there I was, standing amidst my pristine new 34Cs, which mixed with pieces of head-light, were now decorating the street, trying to tell the cabbie that I really didn't oeed to go to haspital. This happened right outside my husband's harristers' chambers, so with the faintest whiff of a Personal Injury claim in the air, a gaggle of lawyers came in the rescue and told me that I must stop "admit-

ting liability". To check that nn damage had been

waiting at the Whittington Hospital casualty department. During my wait I due to close down, and then began to had forgotten to tell us. Finally, I was seen by a smug young doctor, let's call him Dr Bastard, who had obviously skipped off the bedside manner lectures. He questioned me in a point scoring fashinn, like a malingerer, io spite of the fact that I had waited four hours to see the little creep. Finally whilst manipusomething broken you'd be punching me London N7

Dalmation. Burt travelled in the front of broke his headlight. He thought he had done, I spent four frustrating hours by now". I was sorely tempted to do it

anyway. When I got home there were two mesread in the paper that the hospital was sages from Tony, the cabbie who knocked me down. He'd even called in at the hoswonder if it had already and that they pital to ask if I was alright. Cabbies aren't all bad, but this was a helluva way to enlighten me...

> Lejaby bras, 32A-38DD, from £39-£45, Fenwick, New Bond St, London Taxi fair from Bond St to Theobalds Road £4.20 (without tip)

Headlight for a black cab, £49 + VAT. lating my leg, he said "look, if there was Mann and Overton, 52 Holloway Road,

## A car built to order

bat influences buymost expensive petrol model - According to official figures, econers most when they
and vocally the most stimulating, omy is not bad, either. ers most when they and vocally the most stimulating. are choosing a with its transverse five-cylinder medium-sized family car? Style, says Fiat. Next up in importance come price, comfort and durability. Performance rates only 11th, speciousness 14th, fuel consumption 15th. With owners, comfort gets the top rating, according to Fiat, followed by than a "six". style, roadholding and quietness, Performance may well be of low Again, roominess, performance and economy are well down the list, priority, but it's one of the strengths

Fiat came to these conclusions by asking people who buy medium-sized cars. Having established what was wanted, it set about creating the Marea, on sale now as a fourdoor saloon and a five-door estate known as the Weekend.

Whether the Marea would have been any different without the benefit of some lateral market research is open to question. It is, after all, little more than a booted version of the five-door Brava hatchback. What matters is that the Fiat's new saloon comes across as a much classier car than the slowselling Tempra it succeeds. Classier, even, than the Bravo/ Brava twins that spawned it. The two I drove - a 147bhp petrol and an amazingly fast and frugal turbodiesel - impressed on more fronts tban they disappointed.

Fiat Auto sold 86,000 cars here in 1996 - a record. This year, with an 18-model range of Mareas to back the popular Bravo and Brava (both lauded as leaders of fashion) it could do even better. Mechanically, the two model lines bave much in common, Inside and out, though, the Marea does have a style it can call its own. Slimline headlights and slender nostrils give a particularly distinctive face.

On-the-road prices start at £12,358 for the four-cylinder 1.6SX, so the Marea undercuts the cheapest Ford Mondeo by at least £1,400. The 2.0 HLX on test is the

130mph Marea vies for class

leadership with accelera-

tion that's strong

throughout the

engine's rev

Although longer than the engine, unique at this level. Andi Escort-sized Brava, the big-booted Marea is not so spacious as tar-geted rivals (Mondeo, Vectra, 406) pioneered five cylinders; Volvo and Mercedes followed suit; so Fiat is in good company with an engine in the next class up. But then this shouldn't matter, space being a low-order consideration, if Flat that's much smoother and more refined than a conventional "four". while cheaper and more compact has done its homework property.

Comfort? There's nothing wrong with the Marea's embracing front seats - those behind are short of the 2.0 HLX. Dynamically, this on leg-room - but the

ride, on firm-ish suspension, is agitated and jiggly. Several rivals make a better job of smothering road acne.

While the five-cylinder Marea is no quieter than average, the noise it makes - a refined, double-edged snarl of real quality - will offend no

Durability? Who's to say at this juncture, though Fiat bas made enormous strides in recent years to improve quality and reliability. Nothing less than Japan-

### **Road Test: Fiat Marea** By Roger Bell

ese standards will do these days. Roadholding? There's no short-

age of grip on generous tyres.

Keen drivers will enjoy the Marea's crisp handling, sharp steering and big-faced, half-moon instruments, if not its slightly tacky gear change (wby a rough, stitched-leather grip when a smooth knob is palpably better?).

Assets include remote audio controls arranged round the steering wheel, an impressive-looking dash and plenty of equipment - but

oo air-conditioning unless you are prepared to pay extra. The upshot to all this is that if you want to buy something a bit different and distinctive, the Marea is well worth a

look.



The early days of motoring

Brendon, is published by Bloomsbury,

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FIAT MAREA 2.0 HLX

#### Marketing put Daewoo sales into orbit – now the cars are coming back to earth

s any ad guru will tell you. it's impossible to sell a second-rate product in big second-rate processing numbers indefinitely, no matter how dever the marketing. Daewoo is now finding this out.

Daewoo has been a massive success in the UK. In two years the Korean company has grown to take just over 1 per cent of the UK market, making it by far the fastest growing import franchise on record. It bas won this success through its innovative marketing approach. Not only have its advertisements won awards but, more important, its innovative approach to selling cars - hy not using dealerships staffed by commission-bungry salesmen has encouraged many to sample a hitberto unheard-of Korean marque. Just as attractive, Daewoo offers the best after-sales package in the business, including free servicing and repairs for three years, as well as free insurance.

Trouble is, despite the upbeat ad message and the excellent after-sales support, and despite the tidal wave of publicity that has greeted Daewoo's high-profile entry to the UK market, its cars are crummy. They are merely tidied-up and tinselled old Vauxhalls. And given that the Vauxhalls in question weren't all that good 10 years ago when they were new, they have a fat chance of competing with the world's best cars today. Drive a new Peugeot or Ford or Renault or Toyota after a Daewoo, and you experience 10 years' progress (or more) in a single minute.

What's more, according to Motor Trader, the car trade magazine, 80.4 per cent of new and used car dealers in Britain would not take a Daewoo as part-exchange for another vehicle. They cite concern over residual values as the reason. At the same time, Glass's Guide, trade to work out used values (the other is the CAP Black Book), has slashed 10 per cent off the prices of used Daewoos. Says editor-in-chief Arnie Fenn: "Until recently the Daewoo network had been willing to take all of its cars back into stock to protect their values, but now these used cars are finding their way on to the open market

with fairly disastrous results." CAP estimates that in an open market a Daewoo Nexia worth £11,000 today would be worth, in two years and after 30,000 miles. no more than £4,450.

ing was the first casualty of the Daewoo, which has enjoyed a vehicle of freedom. Instead of attendhoneymoon period with the press ing a place of worship, middle-class and public, is understandably motorists drove into the country, visited the seaside, picnicked at beauty spots or went off to play tennis or concerned about the trade resistance. Alison Moran, a Daewoo spokeswoman, accuses the Motor Trader dealer survey of being full of "leading questions There was no denying the pro-found change caused by the car. "It transported the country to the city that encouraged a negative and vice versa. It finally snapped the response. Also, after two years in fetters of locality. It helped to transthe market, there are clearly more form Britain from a congeries of regions into a united kingdom." used Daewoos around, so we'd

expect values to drop."
Mind you, things will soon improve. Brand-new Daewoo models, to replace the old Vauxhalls in drag, are on their way this September. While hardly revolutionary, these cars will be miles better than the current drah ware. They are also likely to hold their residual values far better in an open market than the Nexia or Espero. For Daewoo, then, the problem is about to be solved. But customers who bought Nexias and

Esperos may oot be so fortunate.

1953: the Beetle. 1959: the Mini. 1983: the 205

## How the toffs cleaned up

Gavin Green reviews a warts-and-all account of the social impact of the car



Leon Bollée's voiturette of 1895

scarred by the motor car, it may be tempting to bark back to the golden age of transport, when stately horses and carriages plied the streets, and the air was as clear as a brisk autumn breeze. The Motoring Century: The Story of the Royal Automobile Club by Piers Brendon makes clear that this Arcadetal mistry of the m Britain, As it was commissioned by the RAC, it deals in detail with that strange organirealistic as the notion that children were happier and our streets safer back in the good old Victorian days.

They were nothing of the sort. That cars would invariably be cleaner than borses was an Edwardian truism, supported by the likes of the Prime Minister Arthur Balfour, Rudyard Kipling (wbo described the horse as "the hairy enemy") and HG Wells. At the turn of the century, Britain had 3 million borses, each producing between three and four tons of dung a year. And as most lived in towns and cities. "a large town is really a colossal mid-den with houses dotted about in it", a journalist wrote in 1900. Horsedrawn vehicles were also far noisier than cars: the book notes "the extra-

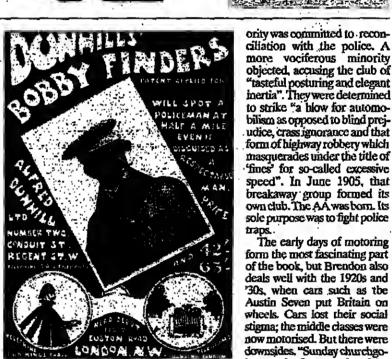
s you grapple with increasing crammed with steel-wheeled traffic, pollution and cities borse-drawn vehicles rumbling and clattering over granite block paving".

This is not a pro-car tome, though. Rather it is an intelligent and fascinating story chroni-cling the social history of the car motoring organisation, governing body of British motor sport and Pall Mall social club.

Brendon says he was given a free hand to write a warts-andall account of the car and of the club, and the book reads as such. Although the story ends on a bullish note for the RAC, throughout most of its history it comes across as a poorly managed, misogynous club for toffs, detached from the social mores of society. It resisted most compulsory speed limits, the breathalyser and the com-

pulsory wearing of seat belts. In the early days, candidates were hlack-balled if they lacked the correct "background", were too obviously "in ordinary thunderous noise of the streets of London, when they were ance", or "ran out of ditches". The

Registration Numbers



club decided that "a working manager was not eligible for election". In the 1930s, a sign in the club read: "Members are requested not to bring undesirable women into the club unless they be wives or relatives of members." Ladies in trouser suits were not admitted until 1970. Even today, women cannot be full members of the Pall Mall Club or sit on the RAC board. And not that many years ago, the chairman's chauffeur "looked like a coachman and would only drive during the day hecause he 'The Motoring Century: The Story of the Royal Automobile Club' by Piers could oot see at night".

Brandon, whose past works include Eminent Edwardians and Winston Churchill: A Brief Life, writes in a breezy yet authoritative style, which makes the book highly readable. His words are backed up by excellent photographs, the older ones being especially interesting. Brandon chronicles the growing Edwardian momentum for the motor car, but also recounts, in great detail, the resistance to it. Early cars "barked like a dog, and stank like a cat", and frightened rural popula-tions. Charles Rolls, of Rolls-Royce fame, noted that, "every other man climbed up a tree or a telegraph pole to get out of your way, every woman ran away across the fields; every horse jumped over the garden wall".

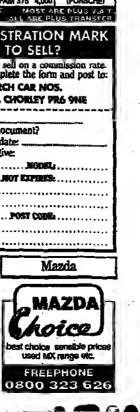
Cars initially exacerbated Britain's already enormous class barriers, because only the wealthy could afford them. One MP commented that for the first time since the French Revolution the working class looked on the wealthy as "an intolerable nuisance". A poor man "did not like to be run over by a man of superior social position". The Marquess of Queensberry announced he would carry a loaded revolver, to shoot dangerous drivers. Some farmers, sick of dust storms caused by cars on gravel roads, sug-gested that cars be fitted with bombs that would explode when the driver pressed too hard on the accelerator. A wire was stretched over the Slough-Maidenhead road in an attempt to decapitate drivers. In the countryside,

cars were frequently stoned.

Speed traps proliferated. Constables hid behind hedges using stopwatches, aithough some used church clocks. Most RAC members detested thetraps, but them oderate maj-

### motoring





# Phensions: the facts

FOUR-PAGE **PERSONAL FINANCE EXCLUSIVE** 



## lake one plan: pay in £2,400 worth of premiums over two years. It could now be worth only £376. Why?

As many as one third of all personal policies are hit by massive upfront charges. Some are worth less than the original investment. John Chapman explains who profits and how

Hundreds of thousands of personal pensions policies started last year are orth less when they are halted than the amount they received in contributions. In some cases, the value of the investment may be worth a fraction of total contributions into the scheme, after massive upfront policy charges

have been deducted by insurers. The potential losses for tomorrow's pensioners is caused by the extremely high lapse rates on most personal retirement contracts. On average, 25 per cent of policyholders halt payments into schemes they buy from insurance salespeople within two years of starting them. For financial advisers, the figure is 15 per ceot. Thereafter, "lapse rates" generally continue at about 6 per cent a year.

Yet most companies, including household oames such as Albany Life, Allied Dunbar, Guardian (formerly GRE), Lincoln National (now called Lincoln) and Sun Life, levy the majority of their charges in the first few years. Very little of the money paid in during that period is actually invested. Those halting cootributions before then face potentially

heavy losses as a result. For example, total payments of £2,400 ioto a pension from Black Horse Financial Services, an offshoot of Lloyds Bank, may only be worth £734 after two years, even assuming investment growth of 9 per cent for each of those years. In an extreme example, Old Mutual offers only £376. It can take up to seven years before "break-even", the point at which the pension is worth the same as contributions.

Ironically, the same payments into a pension with TSB Life, part of the same group, would be worth £2,394 after the same period.

Research shows that despite

#### Charges

industry to have cleaned up its act after the mis-selling scandal, hundreds of thousands of fresh victims are being created each year. All this is in sharp contrast to the promised boon for savers when these new products were launched on an missis-

pecting world in the late 1980s. A joint investigation by The Inde pendent and Granada's World in try, and many companies have much companies with the highest sales result in losses rather than gains.

and the best-known brand names are guilty of the same poor standards. Nevertheless, with generous tax

claims by the personal pensions relief and high-profile regulators to provide comfort to customers, nearly a million oew pensioo plan holders buy the industry's products every

Our analysis shows that of 903,000 new policies taken out in 1996, about 307,000 are likely to lose money, receiving less from their investment than the total amount gaid in premiums. This is an average for the mons

Even fewer realise that the goverameot, through tax relief on pension cootributions, appears to be meeting a large part of these losses. In effect, it is subsidising the insurance industry's charging structures.

With its rebates, a significant oumber of potentially loss-making policies may break even or show a small return on their investment. Without the rebate, savers would suf-

fer even more. One way the industry could be cleaned up would be for the next Action TV programme, to be shown . worse records. Yet few people realise chancellor to threaten to withhold on Monday night, reveals that several the extent to which these policies may tax relief oo cootributions to oew

pers of loss-making policies. The cost to customers is closely

panies with unacceptably large oum-

related to the personal pensions mis-selling scandal of the late 1980s and early 1990s, since the losses when people were wrongly persuaded to switch from company pensions to personal pensions arose because their oew plans provided much lower benefits, as is still the case today.

There are two key issues. First, the charges levied on customers whose policies lapse or are transferred before maturity are very high. They are usually also complex, obscure and easy to Second, it has become clear since

companies have had to disclose their figures that a very large proportion of policyholders do lapse early. The result, as simple as adding two and two, is that there are a very large number of loss-making policies.

Lapses may be for many different reasons, including ill-health or any other change in circumstances that makes the continuing moothly payments a hurden.

By their nature, the plans also have "in-built lapses", as they cannot be continued when planholders join occupational schemes, or when they become unemployed. And with a wide variety of products on the market, there is ample scope for "churning", as the practice of persuading planholders to move their policies to apparently more attractive ones is described.

It is this enormous group, those who lapse early for whatever reason, that are penalised by the industry's charging practices. Our investigation shows the Good,

the Bad and the Ugly. If you have a pension within any of these categories, act oow - before it is too late.

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## The charge before the industry

long argued that charges on the have to return 12.5 per cent more products it sells are not the most just to remain on an equal footing important aspect to be considered. In many cases, this will be unlikely.

when a policy is bought. whether a pension is good or otherwise. After all, would you begrudge fund managers their just reward if they delivered sparkling returns?

At first sight the answer is obvious. Except that most of the time charge is permanent, only decreasmost fund managers turn in less than scintillating performances; And, as

Take, for example, a manager after your money. Another manager who charges 1.5 per cent a year over

The personal pensions industry has . the 25-year lifetime of a policy would ployment for example, and want to

The problem is made worse by the It points instead to performance way many companies levy their of any fund as the key test of charges. Moreover, these charges are often disguised with innocuoussounding phrases like "capital units". Thus, some funds will levy 4 or 5 per cent annual charges on all payments made in the first two years. This

ing on subsequent contributions. Other companies will boast that the saying goes, past performance is their charges are very low over the no guide to the future. Charges, on the other hand, stay in place over the lifetime of a contract. Their impact ments after, say, 15 or 20 years, up on final payout can be massive. people halt payments early and will

who charges I per cent a year to look never receive the bonus. Some firms even penalise people who stop payments, through unem-

start them up again when they find new jobs. In all these cases those who halt contributions in the early years, usually the majority of policyholders, will be hit hardest,

Obscure charges explained in pure gobbledegook ensure that people fail to spot what is being done to their money. John Chapman, whose research we publish exclusively, is a former Office of Fair Trading official responsible some years ago for forcing companies to divulge their charges for the first time.

He uses insurers' own figures to demonstrate the effects of charges on our money. This is a frightening story. It shows how far further the insurance industry has to go before it can truly claim to be serving the public's interests rather than its own.



# PENSIONS MADE SIMPLE

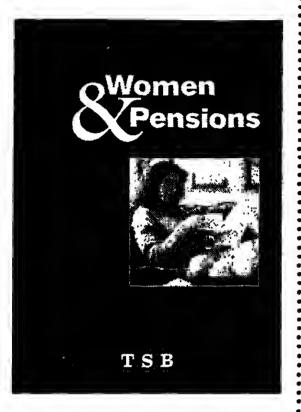
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## The ABC of good value

John Chapman on how to rank the companies

Ratings

Our analysis uses data recently made available on lapse rates and charges that at last allows a demonstration of what is really happening to the pensions industry's customers.

This information is now published by the industry's regulator, the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), every year. The PIA also requires various subsequent stages before they finally mature.

The real value of any pension plan can therefore be assessed by looking at the returns it provides for the investor in the early years, at the midway stage and at maturity. However, so far only the first two years' lapse rates are published.

Until recently, companies were able to sell pensions by pointing to the potentially high returns paid out at maturity 25 years away. But the alarming fact that springs out of the data is that many companies offering such apparently good returns levy very high charges on those who give up their payments early, in many cases

the majority of their clients.

I have developed a system that grades the performance of a policy, based on a rating of A, B and C. This system, adopted by Money Marketing, the specialist weekly magazine, was the basis of the investigation into life insurance charges published by The Indeendent last autumn.

The system rates companies on how much they pay back investors, or give in pension transfer value, in the early stages of a policy, part way through it and at maturity.

First, the system rates a company's past performance. based on the amount paid at the three stages. The same calculations are done again, based on the company's own projections of future payouts.

Since charges are taken as the dominant factor, the projections assume that every company has the same investment performance. Variations in the results are therefore a short cut to showing the differences in charges at each

But instead of relying on a confusing array of numbers, we use a letter to denote the best and worst providers.

In the more sophisticated model, adopted by Money Marketing, the ABC list is broken down further, from A+, the best, down to C-, the worst. company with an A+A+A+ rating is excellent

A rating of CAA or CCA means a policyholder will be treated badly on early surrender but well if the policy is kept allocated by calculating how companies to give details of far a company deviates from how their products match at the midpoint of all the companies in the categor

The top handful of companies in the main and summary tables are those where good future projections are matched by past performance.

In the rest of each table, the rankings are based on companies' projections of future charges alone.

This method for comparing performance between compamies involved calculations carried out for Money Marketing by KPMG, the chartered accountancy and actuarial

It is used here in conjunc-tion with additional lapse statistics called from PIA.

For example, imagine a pension provider that levies very high charges on those who lapse early. Suppose that company also has a very a high proportion of policyholders who lapse their policies early.

The company may as a result make the bulk of its profit not from those who stay the course but from those who give up early. In extreme cases, t may therefore have a vested interest in selling unsuitable policies to people who are unlikely to continue payments to retirement.

The box opposite shows how charges can be manipulated to suit a company's marketing campaign. For example, a company that levies very high charges and penalties on those who lapse early may use part of the money to pay higher amounts to those who keep their policies to maturity.

This is in effect a cross subsidy. The important point is that it allows the company to display attractively competitive maturity values in its marketing literature. Few realise this is achieved by penalising those who leave early.

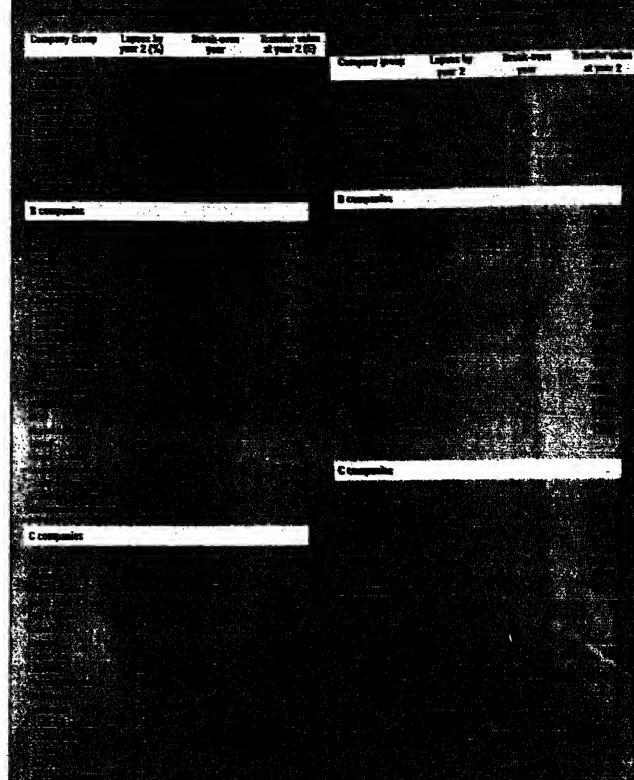
And of course, if most leave early, the good maturity value is deeply misleading because so few receive it.

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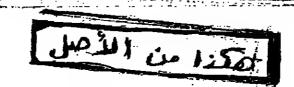
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PEN

Winners and losers

# The price of leaving

John Chapman lists the providers that take in more than they pay out

Information about lapse rates has been emerging gradually since the early 1990s, when research by Nick Anderton, who works for the independent actuarial firm AKG, began to find that unexpectedly high levels of people stopped contributions in a policies within a year or two of starting them.

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The latest survey by the Personal Interest survey by the Personal Investment Authority (December 1996) confirms that high lapse rates are continuing. About 25 per cent of pension plans sold in 1993 by company that have been sold in 1993 by company that have ben sold in 1993 by company that have been sold in 1993 by company pany representatives had lapsed two

With independent financial advisers (IFAs) lapses were lower, hut still substantial, at 15 per cent. Éven within the 25 per cent average figure, there were wide variations between individual companies, with some approaching 40 per cent after

Lapses of personal pension plans were actually higher on average in 1994 than 1993, so as yet there is no improving trend.

As for lapse rates after years one and two, the position is uncertain. One leading company suggested 5 per cent per year was ton low, yet 7.5 per cent might be ton high. Another company assumes 6 per cent per year. A leading consultant says he would opt for 10 per cent, while the industry would argue for 8 per cent a year. In my calculations, I have

investment performance.

#### Lapse rates

assumed a reasonably conservative 8 per cent a year lapse rate in year three for company representatives, and 6 per cent thereafter. I have also assumed 6 per cent from year three nawards for sales of pensions by IFAs. Given the inbuilt lapses 1 have described, such as moving to a company pension scheme or becoming unemployed, these assumptions

may well be on the cautious side.
With this information, it is possible to list the pension providers likely to have the largest number of plans which take in more money

than they pay out. Table 1A refers to unit-linked policies, where the value of a policy is linked more directly to stock mar-ket investments. Table 1B refers to with-profits policies, a type of "smonthed" investment where annual bonuses are added to a policy plus a terminal bonus at maturity.

The second column shows the number of years a policy has to be held hefore the transfer value reaches the value of the premiums paid in. The third column shows the "projected transfer value" at year two for a £100 a month premium, assuming a 9 per cent growth in investments. A projected transfer value is the figure given by a company as the amount it would move

into another pension policy if requested by the client. Some companies argue that it is unfair to use this figure because the actual "paid-up" value of the policy

if left with the original pension provider would be greater. Yet few are willing to give the paid-up value instead - and of those that do, the figures are often similar. The companies are divided into A, B and C groups according to the

rating of their year-two projected "transfer value" With-profits policyholders with one of the C companies, Abbey Life, would not break even before year

Life, Allied Dunbar and Scottish Equitable.

Losses on unit-linked plans in this group average £1,535 for transfers at year two, after premiums payments of £100 per month. Yet the majority of the A companies have no losing plans after year three, and even at year two, the losses on transfer average only £125. These are only averages and the discrepancy between these extremes is

The next stage of the analysis is to use the lapse rates for later years, as described above, to lonk at the 10. Among other prominent names total cost and numbers of lanses in

appearing in the C groups are Sun all the years up to a policy's breakeven point.

The average losses can be calculated by comparing the projected transfer values for each year, together with the premiums paid, taking into account the impact of the lápses each year.

Tables 2 and 3 show the extent of the damage to planholders' interests. For example, 45 per cent of C group unit-linked policyholders are losers, whn put in more in premiums than the values they are given. Their average loss is £943. But only 20 per cent of unit-linked policies in category A lead to losses after this period, and only by an average of £94.

poor transfer values. It is

## Relief bails pensions out

Treasury is subsidising many schemes

More than £4.5bn of contributions into personal pension funds in 1995/96 came from tax and National Insurance rebates, almost twice the amount paid in by policyholders, according to Inland Revenue figures.

Revenue statistics for the tax year ending 5 April 1996 show that holders of personal pensions paid in £2.35bn in contributions against £2.1bn in tax reliefs and £2.43bn of National Insurance rebates.

Let us assume that such tax relief averages 30 per cent across all plan-holders, so that premiums of £100 attract tax relief of £360 a year.

Such relief can serve to offset the losses arising nn policies. When these are low, the tax relief may easily cover them. Even with the higher losses arising from the C group, reliefs may meet 66 per cent of the losses, as shown in Table 2. With some companies the losses may be so high that any tax relief may only meet 50 per cent of them.

These extraordinary figures suggest a large part of pension fund managers' income is ultimately funded by the government in foregone taxes rather than directly by policyholders. The Treasury is in effect financing the losses resulting from the questionable activities of many pension plan providers - high

charges and high lapse rates. Another aspect must be considered. If the pension plan market was as transparent and well understood as it should be, purchasers would go for the lowest charges and higher transfer values. Even if they did lapse they would lose little. Instead, purchasers buy or, more accurately, are sold policies with high charges and

possible to estimate how much purchasers lose by not choosing the best policies in terms of low charges.

These "true costs" are also shown in Table 2, with a losing unit-linked C group policy having on average a true cost of £1,411. Such estimates indicate the costs arising on lapsed policies from not investing in lower-charging companies. The overall totals of losing policies, of related tax relief and nf true costs are shown in table 3.

Taking sales of new premiums of £1.083bn (the 1996 figures), the annual number of new policies is estimated at 903,000. Of these, some 307,000 will show losses nn transfer. These total £212m a year, at a cost to the government of £157m in tax relief. Interestingly, some of it will be clawed back by the government as taxes on the income of the pension finally paid at maturity. Meanwhile, the companies themselves will have been subsidised in their heavy charges by the taxman's generosity.

This, it has previously been argued, is not a cost to the general taxpayer but a rebate that goes into the individual's pension. But rebates on pensions are paid elsewhere from within the tax system.

The consequence of such support could be even more serious when taken together with the Government's recent Basic Pension Plus proposal. Last month, plans were announced to scrap the basic state pension and replace it with a £9 per week payment into personal pensions over every person's working lifetime. But the Government won't offer the same generous rebates to personal pension holders. Unless companies cut their charges, the value of pensions in early years will not be subsidised in the same way.

#### What? How to decipher the gobbledegook Getting to grips with personal pensions means wading through reams of gobbledegook. Here is a handy

guide to the most common jargon. market performance more closely. With profits describes pensions They can deliver higher returns which pay an annual bonus to over the longer term, but involve investors which cannot be taken investors taking more risks.

away. At maturity, a terminal bonus Transfer values are given when is attached. The aim is to "smooth" you decide to switch your pension fund from one provider to another. Unit-linked policies match stock They often involve further charges,

sometimes less than the actual value of the fund.

Paid-up values are those that refer to the value of a policy if contributions are halted and the policy is allowed to run until maturity. Lapses are not a new definition of

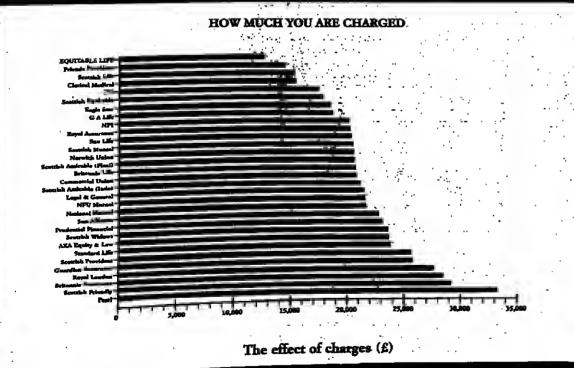
so the transfer value of a policy is absent-mindedness. They refer to people who halt contributions for a variety of reasons.

Initial or capital units are the term for charges levied on the first few years' contributions into a pensubsequent contributions and will

continue tn be applied on those years' payments however long the policy lasts for.

Tax relief is granted to personal pension contributions at the marginal (higher) rate of tax paid. In effect, if you make a contribution of £100, the taxman chips in £23 (from 5 April). If you are on the 40 per sion. These are much higher than cent band, you reclaim the additional 17 per cent from the Revenue.

## IF YOU'RE GOING TO BUY A PENSION, MAKE SURE IT'S ONE OF THE BEST ON THE MARKET.



No. of Top Ten Appearances 1974-1996 Serings surveys of regular contribution with-profits personal pension plana, 1974-1996

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All companies are now required to disclose to potential buyers the cost of investments such as personal pension plans. Comparing the charges made by different companies can be quite revealing.

The chart above left compares the effect of the charges made by various companies to recoup such costs as commission, remuneration and administration for a £200 pm, 20 year regular contribution withprofits personal pension plan. Source: Money Management, October 1996,

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Smart moves: stay ahead by opting for the right pension now

## A policy to take up

#### Questions to ask

It would be easy, after reading how personal pension charges can leave you worse off, to refuse to have anything in do with retirement planning. Easy, but also a mistake. Increasingly, putting something aside for the day you finally stop work is vital to ensuring a decent

income after retirement. Personal pensions, where you are in control of how much you pay in each year, are often essential, particularly where you do not have the luxury of a company scheme to join. While many private providers do penalise those whn start personal pensions and are then forced to halt their contributions, others do not.

The whole purpose of these tables is to show not just those who are bad for your wealth in retirement, but also the better ones. Choosing the right pension is often a maner of doing the right homework, asking the right questions and opting for the company that gives the right answers. Here are some issues to discuss

with a prospective provider: What does it cost to pay premiums each month? Look for companies that levy little or nothing for each premium, whether it is monthly PHOTOGRAPH: EDWARD WEBB OF One-off payments. Good compa-

#### Retirement still needs planning, so invest some time to find a suitable scheme, writes Nic Cicutti

£4 per payment, or 3 to 4 per cent. What are the annual charges? Look for companies that charge 1 per cent or less each year.

How are charges levied? Some companies will tell you that their average annual charges are 1 per cent or slightly higher. What they do not tell you is that their average is low because they sting you heavily upfront, only lessening the load after five or 10 years. Look for a company that has flat-rate charges. Most important, never choose a firm where the adviser cannot explain.

properly how the charges are levied.

Is the independent adviser (always choose one of them) prepared to cut his or her commission, or accept a fee? Aim to pay no more than £300 to £400 to set up a simple, uncom-plicated pension. This is equivalent

to about three or four hours' work. How Clexible is the pension? Unless you are very unusual, you will work for several different employers in your lifetime, some of them with occupational pension

nies will charge no more than £2 to schemes you should join. You may get divorced or lose your job, or bave children or want to increase or cut your commitmicus. Choose a pension final allows you to do those

things without extra charges. Should you pay single or regular contributions? With regular promiums, the adviser will receive upfront commission based on the expected period of your contributions. This takes a large slice of your first two years' payments. Single premiums mean the adviser gets about 4 to 5 per cent of everything you pay in but no more. Choose this option, or something called a "recurring single premium pension, where every ment counts as a one-off.

Despite all these warnings, you may still be hamboozled. This is the fault of companies and some advisers who still try it on. If you believe this is deliberate, blank them out.

An increasingly important part of the personal pensions scene is recent arrival of companies which sell their have details of charges you can products over the telephone. This. allows for significant economies of beforeopting for the right pension.

scale, which can be passed on, More over, it means thatproviders must simplify their products so they can be easily understood. In most cases their pensions offer a far better deal than traditional companies.

Among the lowest-charging are Virgin. Eagle Star, Flemings, Scottish Widows, Merchant Investor Equitable Life. Standard Life Nationwide, PensionStore, Most et these sell by telephone.

Other firms are moving as from the more expensive pa they sold and are focusing on ne products. Sun Alliance, Scott Mutual TSB and even Midland Bank are worth a look here. Amen the average-charging contract worth looking at is Abbey Nations

Get details from several of them Many allow premiums to be made singly, as described above. This makes them cheaper than regular premium pension contracts.

If you are unsure about which pension to choose, talk to an independent adviser. Ask for cost comparisons based on the same preums paid in. Don't fall for the line that performance is key. This only applies on rare occasions. Most of the time price is the key. Once you check past performances.

## Low Charges Our charges are amongst the lowest you can find and we do not penalise you when you change your contributions, this means more of your money goes into your pension Top Past Performance Eagle Star was awarded the top performance rating (AA+A) in a recent survey\* by accountants KPMG on the past performance of different companies OUR pensions are with-profits pensions. to grow Pensions by phone, call anytime on 0800 776666. regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, information or advice will only be pravided on Eavie Star Products Full written details are available on request. Past purformingers not a guarantee of luture performance. 'Squrau: Maney Marketing, Oct 1996. Only applicable to pensions taken out through Eagin Star's Teleadyic

## Measures for a better future



A target to aim for: a decent pension allows for an active retirement

#### Failure to act now will cause suffering for millions

Personal pensions were sold as the solution to the inflexibility and potentially low returns on offer to members of occupational schemes who switched jobs regularly. In reality, going private is likely to cost millions of people extremely dear.

In many cases, they should never have been sold a personal pension in the first instance, as the mis-selling scandal of recent years has shown.

Even for those for whom a personal pension may have been appropriate. personal pensions may turn out to be a

nightmare.

The pensions industry may argue that investment performance is key to the success of a personal pension and the fund built up within it. But, as we know, there is nothing fixed about good fund performance. A good fund three years ago, when you started your pension, may well decline tomorrow - or even a year after you started paying into it.

The tangible sum in the equation is the impact of charges on a fund's final payout, whether it is invested well or

The industry may also argue that many lapsing policies are not

The solution

transferred, and that paid-up policies kept with the same company would be worth more. This is a valid point, perhaps, for some companies. But it is also true that unexpected new charges often arise in these cases. In any case, will the industry publish its paid-up values and associated charges to prove the point? This is unlikely.

In reality, the life insurance industry is a questionable vehicle for personal pension plans, with its tradition of over selling, with its high costs and obscure charges. The industry practice of "front-end loading" of charges is a root cause of the damage done to a very

large number of policyholders.

What could the industry's watchdogs do? Regulators could place much more emphasis on the combined impact of charging structure and lapse rates. They could also require the disclosure of paid-up values on policies where premiums are stopped but the fund is kept with the same company.

The media can help in clearing this up. It can emphasise how losses can be avoided by opting for companies with low charges and high transfer values. The more league tables are published the better - preferably with rating systems that allow people to understand at a glance what happens to their money in the early years. The Independent grasped this point some

time ago.

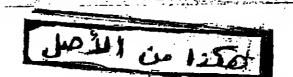
Finally, the government must consider carefully whether it should. continue to finance much of the cost of the industry's failures. Perhaps the next chancellor could examine whether to remove pension tax relief for all companies that provide transfer values of less than 90 per cent in the first two years of the premiums paid in.

That could quickly bring about the restructuring and improvement of products needed if this industry is to be accepted as providing a boon for. retirement, rather than a scam at the expense of planholders and taxpayers.

One thing is certain: without policies to stop this pension scandal, millions of people will continue to suffer in years to come for this failure to act now.

John Chapman

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THE INDEPENDENT LONG WEEKEND . SATURDAY 5 APRIL 1997

## Guaranteed not to blow your capital?

Andrew Verity explains the gamble involved if stocks fall

ervous investors, worried that last week's slip in the FTSE 100 share index is only the start of something nasty, may find few suggestions more seductive than an investment which is "guaranteed" not to shrink. But just how reassured by that "G"-word should we be?

Based on the numbers of takers - very reassured, at least in theory. In 1996, insurance companies persuaded 110,000 investors to put £1.8bo in financial products that sport the "G"word: guaranteed income bonds, guaranteed equity

products, guaranteed funds. With the latest products, known as guaraoteed or "cootrolled risk" funds, investors can ensure that if the stock market suffers a sharp fall, theo their capital shrinks by no more than a set amount.

Sold within a PEP or as a separate bond, the funds guarantee anything between 95 and 100 per ceot of cap-ital against a fall in the stock market over three months. But they also get a share of any growth in the markets.

If they guarantee 95 per cent of their capital, this may be 150 per cent or more of the growth in the FTSE 100 index over three mooths. Any gains (or losses) are then locked in for the next three mooths and the process starts again.

Scottish Mutual, Save & Prosper, Legal & Geoeral, AIG, Scottish Life and Scottish Equitable are among companies which have eotered what appears to be an increasingly But beware. While the

products are marketed as giving investors a measure of safety, they can sometimes actually be riskier than a straight investment in shares.

Take a 95 per cent guaranteed fund. Investment managers will put enough in cash to make sure they have at least 95 per ceot of your capital at the end of three mooths. With interest, this may be as little as 93 per cent of cash. The other 7 per ceot will go into options, usually based on the FTSE 100 index. The options work by giving

investors the chance to cash in on any growth should the FTSE 100 index rise. When shares boom as they have in the past two years, results can be spectacular. Manor Park, for example, quotes returns of nearly 45 per cent on its 95 per cent fund since its launch two years ago.
Scottish Mutual's controlledrisk fund has grown by 37 per cent since its launch in October 1995. And if the FTSE shrinks by more than 5 per cent next quarter, 95 per cent of investors' money is safe anyway. But here's the catch: if the

market does not grow over the quarter, the options will usually return nothing. This means that if the FTSE falls by 1 per cent over three months the investor may get nothing back from the 7 per cent of his money which has been bet on a FTSE rise.

Eveo if the FTSE falls by just 1 per ccot, the capital shrinks by 5 per cent.

Worse, if an investor stays in a 95 per cent guaranteed fund over four quarters, the fund could shrink every quarter. If the FTSE stays consistently flat, the potential loss over the year grows to 18 per ceot. Where, guarantee in that?

So what are the chances of losing 5 per cent of your period?

Flemings derivatives expert John Gilbert has analysed all the quarterly returns since the FTSE 100 iodex began io 1985 (see graph). In nearly 30 per ceot of those quarters the FTSE fell. And in most cases, those falls were less than 5 per cent. During those threemonth periods, io other words, investors would have lost less in a straightforward fund that tracks the FTSE. Ironically, in a flat market your capital is safer without

the guarantee.
With many 95 per cent funds, the options are invested in such a way that you still get less than 100 per cent back - even when the FTSE grows by up to 2 per cent. Plotting returns on the FISE over all the quarters since 1985, the chance of the index growing by less than 2 per cent is more than four in 10. If the past were to repeat itself, investors would lose money over the quarter - 42 per cent of the time.

Equally, when the FTSE grows by 6 per cent, you might get 10 per cent growth in your fund.

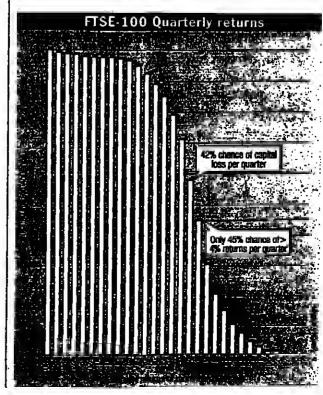
But concern is growing stand the risk of disappointment. By guaranteeing 95 per cent of your mooey, you can actually increase the chance of losing 5 per cent of capital over the quarter. According to Nick Eaton, a derivatives expert and portfolio manager at Prolific Objective: "Some of the marketing literature has been ecocomical with the Sam Ewan, Axa Equity &

Law investment products manager, says: "We don't think it's fair that companies should push a guaranteed product if people doo't understand that they could lose 5 per cent of their money in a flat market."

Axa Equity & Law believes investors will recognise the need to pay for their guarantee. Their product can still guarantee 95 per cent or more of your capital. But if the stock market shrinks by 1 per ceot over a quarter, your capital will be worth 99 per ceot of its value at the start -The payoff is that it uses

less racy investments than other funds. So it performs worse than other funds if the FTSE grows by more than 4 per cent in three months.

Mr Ewan stresses that 55 per cent of the time since 1985, the FTSE has grown by less than 4 per cent. But 4 per cent, sober returns are the price you pay for the "G"



# money & homes

## The question is whether Labour can deliver



general election campaign proper.
With the stock market wobbling again this week it seems a good time to take another look at the possible impact which the election will have oo the markets.

The first point to make is that elections rarely show the financial markets at their most astute. Wheo the polls are right, as they were with the US Presidential election last year, they tend to look smart and when they are wrong, as they have been oo

several occasions, including the last British election, investors tend to look just as foolish as everyone else. dragging on, but at least with the launch of the party manifestos we are now more obviously into the It is a moot point whether this phenomenon supports those who say

that the markets are efficient at discounting future events, or those who take the opposite view. If political opinion is too volatile to be forecast accurately, then it counts as a plus point for the theory that current market prices accurately discount all knowable information. It merely proves that this kind of information is oot capable of prediction. The real answer, in all probability,

is that it is a bit of both. Investors take the consensus view as the starting point - this time it points to a Labour victory - and place their bets accordingly. For most investors, elections are times of uncertainty and they know they don't have any special insight into the result. That is why they tend to react most negatively when the outcome is open to question, aod are much more insouciant when the result looks predictable.

According to the latest prices offered by the spread betting firm IG Index the favoured outcome is for Labour to win around 370 seats, implying an overall majority of aboot

The interesting thing, as my chart suggests, is that while the punters bave been anticipating a Labour victory for a long time, it is only since the Wirral by-election in late February that the betting has turned to possible landslide outcomes.

This seems to be a case of two things coming together at the same time - an actual election result which has confirmed the rather less-trusted message of the opinion polls, and a dawning realisation that it really is time to start thinking about the election result.

It is one thing to have "factored in" the general possibility of a Labour victory but another to try to think through exactly what effect it might have on share prices and share val-

ues. It is no accident that in the past few weeks we have begun to hear serious worries expressed about the precise impact of a move by Gordon Brown to reduce further the ACT dividend credit enjoyed by pension funds and other tax-exempt investing

It is this single issue that worries professional investors about a possible Labour victory. Assuming that Labour wins and that Mr Brown pursues this option, it could have a serious negative impact on the stock market. Estimates of the likely impact range from anything between a 5 per cent and 20 per cent fall in share prices.

Of course, Mr Brown and his colleagues have done a pretty good job As the brokers James Capel pointed out in an excellent piece of research the other day, Labour has won plenty of plaudits for the potentially damaging things it has ruled out duing.
What's more, it also seems to

have backed away from its threats to clamp down on takeovers by shifting the burden of public interest proof from the target company to the predator. This has warmed the hearts, and wallets, of jovestment bankers, brokers and all the other City professionals involved in the M&A business.

All this is good news, if you believe that Labour can actually deliver. You do not have to assume duplicity to have doubts that this may not be quite how things turn out. It would be astonishing if they did not try to be more ambitious in what they try to do than they have promised, and equally unsurprising if they did not make a botch of a lot of it in the early days. This is more likely with a large majority than with a small one.

As the economic issues at stake are serious ones, this is not a possibility to discount too lightly. For the equity market, the crucial issues will be how far Mr Brown moves to fill the gap

at convincing the markets that New In his budget calculations with additional taxes on the corporate sector and, more generally, how quickly and how effectively Labour is able to demonstrate that the way it implements monetary policy carries cred-

ibility.

The final point to note is that domestic considerations can only take you so far in trying to predict the impact of the election on the markets. What happens to the US mar-ket will also be a big factor. Well Street has fallen quite sharply again this week. It is now down 9 per cent or so from its earlier peak, before the latest rise in US interest rates, and even a triumphant Labour haptism in office will struggle to make much impact on the markets against a background of any further falls on the other side of the Atlantic, even though the UK market is not as obviously as overvalued as the US one. All in all, thon, it looks unlikely be a great year for the UK stock market - and possibly a bad one if Mr Brown wins and decides to grasp the nettle of taxation early and berd.

John Whiting and Brian Tora do not appear for lack of space. They will return next week, as will our usual sev-

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## lalifax takes on poachers

As the countdown to the £20bn bonanza from demutualising societies continues, Halifax has moved to halt a potential flood of "deserters" by introducing a loyalty scheme aimed at persuading members to stay with it after they receive their free shares.

The society will offer a range of goodies, including discounts on personal loans of up to 5 per cent for unsecured loans and 3 per cent for secured ones. Direct Line products listed above, please phone the appropriate number

Halifax members are being offered payment holidays of up to six months during the lifetime of their mortgages, up to £100 if they transfer their balances to a Halifax Visa credit card and up 10 per cent discounts on holidays booked.

The move is designed to stop poaching of Halifax customers by building societies that have opted oot to convert into banks.

Meanwhile, speculation is mounting that at least one demutualising society. Northern Rock, may be targeted for takeover as soon as trading begins in its shares. While unlikely, in that the Rock is protected from takeover for five years unless its members vote otherwise, the rumour is a sign of the continuing reshaping of the

financial sector. Among insurers, Norwich Union faces similar takeover speculation, while NPI, one company tipped by The Independent last week as a bid target, emerged as the recipient of an approach by the Australian insurer AMP, which has lost out in the battle for ScotAm.

Under these circumstances, unless you desperately need the money, it makes sense to sit tight and hold on to the shares handed out by the demutualisers.

Members of various societies and insurers seeking a stock market listing will have received forms asking them what they want to do with their shares. It is usually best to ask for a share certificate to be sent direct, rather than being held in the new company's nomince

In the case of Alliance & Leicester members, sending this form back to the society is an urgent task, given its planned floration on 21 April. This allows the option of sheltering the shares in a tax-free PEP within the 42-day limit allowed by the Inland Revenue.

The Revenue allows only one PEP manager per tax year, so if you are thinking of extra PEP investments in the coming tax year. it makes sense to park the shares in a company which also allows



Alliance & Leicester members have to return their forms quickly

separate savings into its own funds. Dozens of fund managers and stockbrokers are offering various PEP options to soon-to-be former society and insurance company members.

Next week, these pages will tell

you the best options to foilow. So. prepare to keep the share certificates. They may be worth more than you think in a few years'

Nic Cicutti

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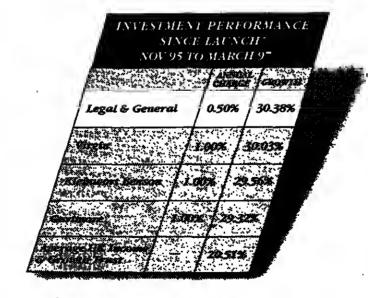
It follows the FTSE All-Share Index This Index reflects the performance of the eotire stockmarket, so it reduces the risk of being over-exposed to shares which under-perform and lessen your return. In fact, £6,000 invested in the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP at launch would oow be worth £7,822\* compared to just £7,230° in the average UK Income & Growth Trust.



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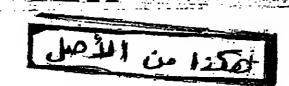
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## Three beds. All mod cons. And spire

Large, airy, beautifully crafted -Victorian churches are ripe for residential conversion. Serena Mackesy visits one in Preston

o St Mark's Square, Preston, Lancs, an oasis of turn-of-thecentury terraces close to the city centre, stands a fine square-cut Victorian Gothic church, with rose windows and an imposing tower, But it has no vicar and oo coogregation; the church, whose foundation stone was laid on its saint's day, 25 April, in 1862, has been standing empty since 1983. No longer. The formerly hallowed walls of St Mark's now play host to 25 flats, designed by the Fletcher Smith partnership.

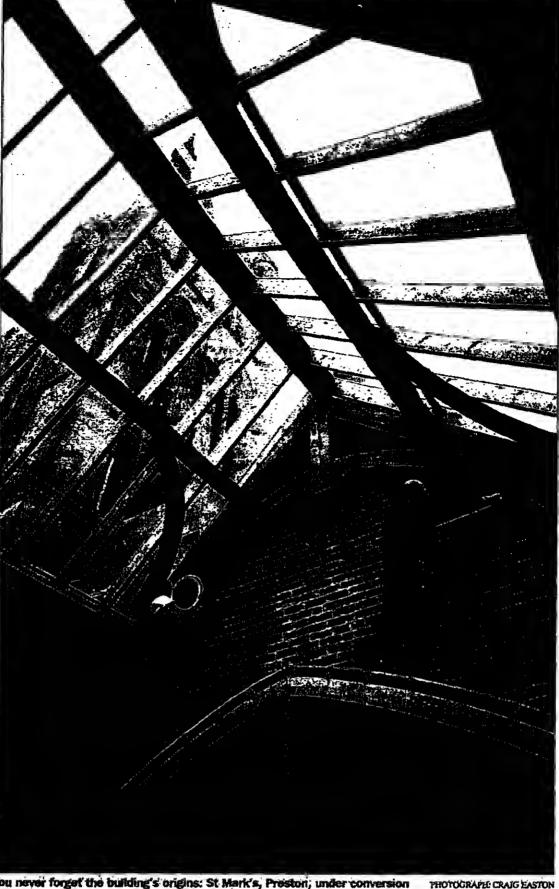
Churches, like people, get made redundant from time to time. This is not necessarily a reflection of the times. There are many reasons: amalgamation of parishes, alterations in the local population or character, or simply that the cost of upkeep becomes greater than that of making and maintaining a whole new building. It happens less often than ooe would think: only 25 churches were declared redundant in 1996; the Church of England still has oearly 16,000 parish buildings in regular use, and a new congregation starts up in warm natural stone. The tower conthe Church of England every fort- tains a three-bedroom flat with night. The picture of a Britain riddled with empty churches is far from accurate. Nooetheless, the buildings Pexist, and finding a new use for them is preferable to dereliction.

Conversion is not a simple matter, though: ask any Evangelist. Michael Catterall, managing director of Park View Homes, the company responsible for the St Mark's development, has gone through a good deal to bring his plans to fruition. Planning permissioo was just the start. "I suspect that one or two planning applications get the building's origins.

had been submitted before ours," he says, "but they never seemed to get off the ground. The whole thing at the end of the day has to be viable for somebody to take it on. I think that's probably why there are so many churches left standing without anybody doing anything to them: there are so many restrictions put on by the ancient mooumeots societies and English Heritage and the other bodies that have to be consulted."

He obtained consent and bought St Mark's in August 1993, but he wasn't out of the woods yet. In November that year, his bank got cold feet and withdrew its support. "I bought the church for £40,000 originally, but after the problems with the hank, I had to buy it back for £200,000," he says. In 1995, after raising the money from other sources, work restarted.

It's been worth it, though. The final product is light and characterful with a bost of detail: curved hammer beams in yellow pine with a fabulous grain; arts-and-crafts embellishments, roughly 1,500 square feet of floor area. An anse apartment is graced by a ceiling, said to be Italian in design, whose curved rib beams are covered, where they interconnect, with carved acorns and oak apples, vine leaves and grape clusters. Flats radiate off a central atrium at the point where the transepts spread out and the nave. starts. This atrium runs all the way up through the building, and natural light comes in through skylights in the roof. All mod cons, but you never for-



You never forget the building's origins: St Mark's, Preston, under conversion

church, of course, can't be a great asset to an area, and the Church Commissioners' strictures on declaring a church redundant ("deconsecration" is not, apparently, a C of E term), include considerable parochial and public consultation. Not all churches; of course, are appropriate for residential use. "I've looked at one or two others, but they've oot oot happen. Mostly, graveyards are really been suitable for conversion kept out of the sale, though occabecause of the location of the windows," says Michael Catterall. "We usually simply to provide access to the have skylights in the roof, and put in building. But this is certainly oever more for the ground floor, eight in done in ground with new burials, and For details call Michael or Ve Canterall the nave, another two in the existing graves have to be tended and

The locals are, apparently, happy transepts, and three more in the respected, though occasionally the about the development. A derelict apse. The nave windows started twoand a half metres above ground, with string courses; we slotted the windows in underneath that."

Another advantage of St Mark's was that it had oo graveyard. One of the more lurid images of church conversion is the idea of graveyards being ripped open, but according to the Church Commissioners this does sionally part of one may be included, remains consecrated. If someone is buried in consecrated ground they remain in consecrated ground.

On the anniversary of the laying of St Mark's foundation stone (25 April), the final 18 flats in the development go on sale. They vary from one to three bedrooms, and cost between £40,000 and £100,000. And thrown in with the price is a slice of history and all the care takeo by craftsmeo who were originally building for the glory of God.

on 01772 200602

#### Three on view

Church conversions



Church House, at Caldecote. oear Peterborough, formerly the church of St Mary Magdalene, was last used for church services in the Sixties. It was converted into a home in 1988. The house is Grade II \* listed, and is oow a four-hedroom house with stone mullioned windows. A timber spiral staircase leads to the first floor and to a galleried bedroom, and most rooms have exposed roof beams. A gardeo of almost half an acre is included, £240,000 through Savills (01780 766222)



The former Methodist church in Peasmarsh, near Rye in East Sussex, has planning consect to turn it into a three- or fourbedroom home with two enormous reception rooms. It is being sold with restrictive covenants - these are commoo to most execclesiastical buildings - which forbids use for the sale of alcohol, as a dance hall, for gambling or for religious purposes. There is an enclosed courtyard gardeo, and room to build a garage. Agent Phillips & Stubbs is asking £68,000. (01797 227338)



The Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels was built by French and American prisoners of war between 1810 and 1814. The stained glass in the east window is in memory of them, especially the 218 who died. Conversion of the Grade II a listed building is subject to a number of restraints, partly because of its historical importance – it was an appendage to the nearby Dartmoor Prisoo - and because access will have to be sought from the Duchy of Cornwall. It is in disrepair and will, says the agent, oeed a skilled architect and expert builders. The fittings will be removed, but some furnishings can be bought separately. Offers around £40,000, to Michelmore Hughes (01803 £65116).

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## The woodbegoods

Helen Lewis has a dream of owning a wood

to manage nature. And, for has a distinct appeal. But how wrong. I am oo sentimeotalist intent on giving nature a free hand to run amok. My aim is a well maintained area of mixed hardwood trees interspersed with paths and the odd clearing to sit in for famwood for my log burner at "A land agent is weekends but still provide a source, but try local estate agents, too." Ann advises. ily picnics. I want to cut fireenvironmental woodland management, but I need some sound advice.

My first port of call is to Chris and Ann Hughes, who have impeccable qualifications for advising anyone with an interest in woodland. Together they rum a centre for instructing practical woodland skills and advise on woodland cooservation for the Countryside Commission for Wales. They also own a small wood - and have learnt a great deal from

their own experience. Nine years ago, Chris and Ann bought 10 acres of mixed decidnous woodland, once a confer plantation which had been felled during the war, burnt over in readiness for the next crop of trees, then never replanted. The conifers did not regenerate naturally and deciduous trees took over.

.8:10pm to 6:41am N tristand Good Good

Buying your own patch of only get into it in one corner relatively inexpensive form of land as an investment — oo one had touched it for land investment whereast and as a bit of space more than 30 years. However, you can call your own - has with patience, careful planbecome increasingly popular ning and a lot of hard work we for those with a bit of spare have created a pleasant, stable

cash. You buy, not to build but environment," explains Ann. Looking around their wood, my part, the thought of own- I am struck by the variety of ing a small area of woodland tree species. Oak, ash, sycamore, poplar, alder, willow, do I set about it? Don't get me 'lime, holly and field maple all thrive in a relatively small area surrounded by hedges of indigenous blackthorn, hazel, hawthorn and bird cherry. This was just what I was looking for, but where do I find my own leafy sanctuary, and how will I put a realistic value oo it?

tain a description of where the wood is, its aspect, the main tree species within it, their age, and the woodland's potential - the yield class.

This gives a guide to the productive capacity, how much timber per hectare you can extract each year, with it cootinuing to produce the same amount. Obviously, if the timber is valuable then the asking price will be higher," she explains. However, Chris points out,

the ultimate value is what a wood is worth to the person buying, and not everyone has the same reasons for purchasing. Some people acquire a wood because they look out of their window on to it every day and want control over what happens to it, while others just want a piece of wood for environmental rea-When we bought the wood sons. There are those who buy it was so overgrown we could

ers have plans for the trees' productivity and want to make their mark on the landscape."

Whatever the reason for buying, access is an important consideration. Before buying my wood I must decide whether timber-felling and tree-thinning are going to be done by myself with my Land Rover and trailer, or by a contractor who will want to bring tractors and possibly lorries in. At the very least I will need a gated entrance, somewhere to park, and paths to walk round. And being a povice, I will also oeed a plan of action.

"Once you have purchased contact the local forestry authority and ask for the private woodlands officer. He will survey your wood - free of charge - and advise on a fiveyear management strategy and the available grants."

Chris brings the discussion around to the matter of insurance. "In exactly the same way as owning a house or any other piece of land, you must have third-party insurance on a piece of woodland because you may be liable if someone has an accident, especially if you have a dangerous tree which should have previously been removed."

Achieving anything worthwhile with a piece of woodland, I am told, is a long-term commitment. Take the endless free advice available, be prepared for a winter storm to ruin your best plans - and leave room to adapt.

Chris and Ann Hughes, Woodiand Skills Training Centre woodland just because it is a 01597860574 Good Good Den Langtaine 10.40 4.0 23.17 3.9



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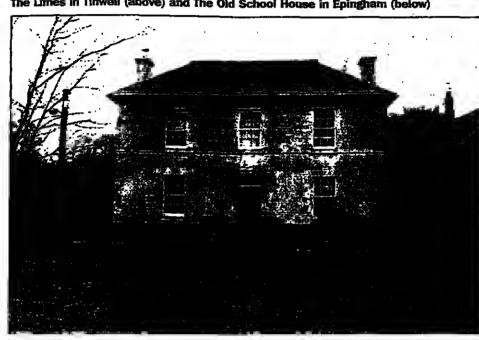
## WOOLWICH

all safety for minimary inventors and the control of the control for the control of the control

## The rush for Rutland



The Limes in Tinwell (above) and The Old School House in Epingham (below)



The smallest county is back - and in big demand. By Rosalind Russell

tion hall with a curved stair-

case. It also comes with a two-

one pub and two antiques

shops. A period three-

bedroom house in this Geor-

"Getting back our county

not just saying this because I've

land is so popular with bousehunters harassed by city life. Or it could be the beer: Rut-, land is home to Ruddles. Or maybe it's just the determined character of the natives that makes it a corner of rural England worth settling in.

In the 23 years since government bureaucrats swept Rutland off the map and into the administrative arms of Leicestershire, 34,000 Rutlanders have never stopped fighting to have their county status reinstated. Even people who weren't even born when their county was swallowed up insisted in putting "Rut-

back on the map, it seems that outsiders can't wait to join the ranks and buy into the county that - at about 15 miles square is the smallest in England.

When recently we put an advertisement in a local Leicester paper," says a spokesman from Savills, "we £185,000 are invited. had a phenomenal response. We have a lot of people specifically looking for houses in the Rutland villages. But there are some you just can't buy the property market," says Sue Mullinger, manager of the Black Horse Agency branch in into, because there's never Oakham. "This is very pretty anything for sale.

Many village houses are very attractive, huilt of local stone with Collyweston slate lived here for 20 years. Rut- "Rutland has everything roofs. They are as elegant as land has a lot to offer. We are except Marks & Spencer."

aybe it's because anything in nearby Stamford— there are at least twice only just over the border in much loved by makers of teleprepared to travel further to vision period dramas. Middlework just to live bere."

The villages around Rut-land Water - the reservoir cremarch was filmed there.
The Limes in Tinwell, two
miles from Stamford, is typical.
The Grade II listed, fiveated in the Seventies - attract most enquiries. bedroom, creeper-covered Georgian house has working shutters, panelled rooms and windowseats, and a 24ft recep-

"Houses are selling over-night," says Sue Mullinger.
"There are people waiting for houses to come up in certain villages. There isn't much in the way of industry in Rutland, so people don't come here because they have been relocated for work, they come bedroom cottage and a walled garden (and even the walls here are grade II listed). Sav-ills is asking £365,000. because they really want to live Empingham, midway be-tween Stamford and the

Property in the county has county capital. Oakham, is never been cheap, even though one of the most popular Rutcommuter links are not as good as some. Trains from Oakham's draughty little stapeak afternoons - are few and far between to Peterborough gian village is not likely to sit on the market for long. Savills and the onward connection to expects a lot of interest in the Old School House, built in 1838, with gardens on all four sides. Offers of around London. But £100,000 will buy a three-bedroom semi, £200,000 a four-bedroom detached house, depending on location and plot size. At the bottom end of the market, around £40,000 huys a tername will make a difference to raced, first-time buyer's house in Oakham. For the "right" house in Manton, Hambleton or Egleton, buyers are prearea and now even more pared to pay over the odds just people will hear about us. I'm to secure the property.

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fully furn

## A bargain on a small scale



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work includes theatres as well as manor-houses. It will be available fully furnished. The Tudor furniture is hand-made by craftsman Mike Mortimer and is detailed down to paintings, tapestry and

bibles, all by Angels Coleman MA. You won't get vacant possession, though. The tenants, made of porcelain, are by Isabelle Wood and their clothes are by Lady Staughton recently High Sheriff of

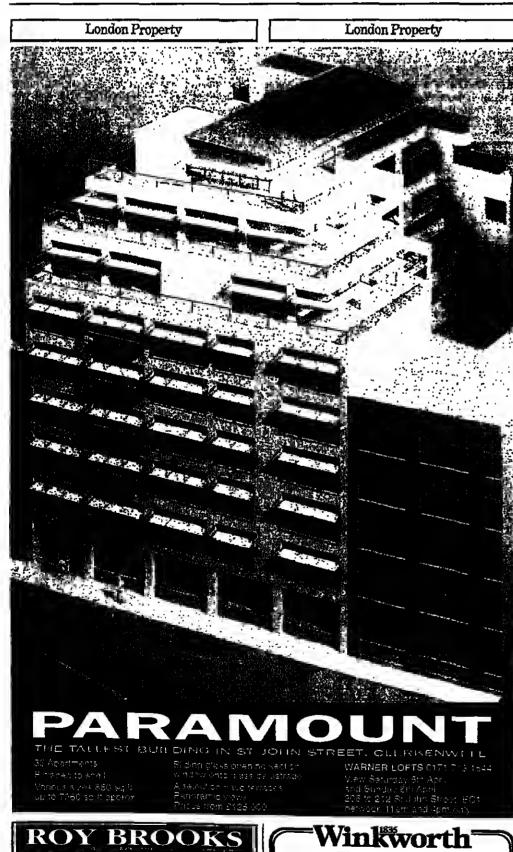
The house is being raffled in aid of the Holy Cross Church in Sarratt, which is in need of substantial repairs to its roof. For tickets, £1 each, send an SAE and cheque payable to The Friends of the Holy Cross Church to Sarratt Doll's House, c/o Little Sarratt Hall, Sarratt, Hertfordshire WD3 6BS.

Rosalind Russell

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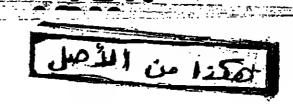
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## TO FIND OUT WHAT,'S ON TV, WHERE TO GO AND WHEN, READ TODAY'S



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gaft for many

It's not cheap being a hippie. It's not just the colon cleansing: every holistic therapy costs an arm and

estimonials: they're impor-tant to any business. Here are some testimonials for Arise and Shine Herbs Ltd's 'Clean-me-out" programme. "A large cyst, very painful, had been growing in one of my breasts for seven years, it sure what a chakra is, but it must dissolved by the end of my first be something big because seven days... painful, swollen areas of my coloo got unblocked. Four inches van-

of goopy, strange (chemical odour) greeo stuff came out at 1.30am. My menstrual periods are now perfectly in time with the New Moon... I'll keep cleansing until I'm totally renewed

The boys were fascinated by Arise and Shine. They stood there, staring at the stall and reading the litera-ture for half an hour, jaws hanging loose, going "my God" while I tugged at their

and whined about wanting to go and get my aura pho-tographed. Boys and bowels. They just can't get enough, can they? I blame Geoffrey Chancer, myself.

The stall was certainly an arresting sight. Sitting in a white-painted corridor at the Festival of Holistic Living, among the palmists and Indian head masseuses, its displays grabbed everyone who came within 30ft and stopped them in their tracks. It was the photos that did it. The photos were fantastic. I swear, the Saatchi Gallery would pay six figures for them.

What you do to get your own artwork is pay A&S £198. They give you a huge box full of pills. You take the pills, and after a bit, black stuff starts coming out which tells you all about your of your backside. It's called oumerological personality. I something like "intestinal am a 12, which means that I mucoid substance", otherwise known as "bowel slags". Accord- hugh (sic) variety of knowledge ing to the literature, you can have anything up to 48ft of the stuff sitting there in your colon, a legacy of all those hamburgers. Cordelia Gummer will have a lot was a lump of wood with six to thank her old man for in later little prongs, but it had been years. And this is where the painted red with black spots and photos come in: some of A&S's it felt very nice. "That's nice," I customers were so excited by the said. "How much are they?" results that they put on rubber "£6.95," she said. "And the little gloves and took photos of ones are £4.95. Or you can have At wh themselves holding them the two for £10." Hah, I sit down.

DAMIEN HURTS.... and his painfully creative struggle

Which were pinned to a notice- thought: it can't work, it doesn't board for us all to see. Damien cost enough. \*I'll think about

Hirst, this one's for you. It's not cheap being a hippie.
It's not just the colon cleaning. every holistic therapy costs an arm and a leg. I'm not entirely getting it cleaned costs as much as having all the carpers in my flat done did the other day. I

Obviously everyone feels much

better with a shiny chakra. But

once you've laid out £49.99 on

a tie-dye T-shirt which cost £1.70

when it left India, you're not

going to have a whole lot of cash

The Battersea Grand Hall

had a strange air of school fête

about it: not the school I went

to, where fêtes consisted of

little girls soeering at each

other's ooo-uniform clothes,

but the school I want to send

my children to. They'll certainly

get an education. Along with a

left over for incease.

over the years.

it," I said, and went over to finger the incense. A couple of hippies drifted up next to me. The oumber of rings in their noses made me start wondering about my own wimp factor. "You know, I was thinking" he said "about said. "about that geopathic reverser. I bet there's a load of polluted energy ished from my waistline... lots don't mean to sound cynical. flows at your mim's. Maybe we

> "How much are they?" she asked. £39. But you don't oced to plug it in or anything. It works off Maybe. Let's go back and look at them agam."

Then I met Lynda. I liked Lynda. She was a psychic and she only cost £25. I sat down and committed

terrible faux pas by trying to pay her first. She took my hand. "Hmm," she said. "You're very attractive to foreign men, then." I was hooked. Absolutely. "You've got to stop striking things out," she said. "You do

that all the time, and it's a really bad idea. And that guy. I know he keeps coming back, but you're letting him get in the way. Don't worry. He'll always be part of your life, but you're going to be able to push him to the side soon and look at other people." When I left Lynda, I felt all

glowy. Went to find the boys. They were still standing by A&S tarot reading, an energy ball and a nice reflecting bookmark Herbs, reading a book called "Cleanse and Purify Thyself" by Dr Richard Anderson, ND NMD. "How was your reading?" said Nicky. "Lovely, love to travel and will gather a thank you. I'm going to sleep with someone foreign." Nicky's I wandered on, A woman eyes rolled to heaven. "And?" came up and started rubbing me be said. I took the book from with a ladybird. Well, actually it his hands, started reading the blurb on the dust jacket. "I discovered this course after an initial period spent on another colonic cleansing programme," it said. "After two weeks, I dropped it like a hot potato." At which point I had to

50 WHY DID YOU STEAL

FOR THE

MONEY !

THE PICASSO?

CRIME

hey were talking dirty on Word of Mouth this week (Radio 4, Tuesday). They were also talking about sex, but that's beside the point. Word of Mouth panders to a different set of base instincts—the low pleasures of pedantry. There are people who go through life clenching their teeth every time they hear presently" used to mean "at present", their indignation Robert Hanks bourly stoked by infinitives split, participles dangled, sentences ended with prepositions. To these tortured, suppressed

Pandering to pedantic pleasures

ing speaker of English, spell-bound by his rigid adherence to grammatical rules and completely ignoring the dirgey monotone in which his thoughts are embodied. I'm not encouraged by the fact that an inadvertent "shit" from Anna Ford on Today can practically jam the BBC switchboard and make headlines in the press.

I suppose these people deserve our sympathy as much as our condemnation: to set such store by artificially constructed rules of language is odd, to say the least, and it suggests that what is going on is a powerful sublimation of other anxieties - about class and social change, mainly. It would be worth knowing whether the

about language at times of political uncertainty.

But it's surely not right to pander to these fears by invitng contributions to "The People's Lexicon". This is a list of approved and reviled tropes to be nominated by listeners - in effect, a kind of linguistic "Readers' Wives" page. And though it was a joy to hear Frank Delaney on the air again, after a long absence through illness, it would have been nicer if he hadn't been putting up a daft defence of the subjunctive. on the grounds that it is a mood that offers a sense of possibility unattainable with the plain old indicative. The implication seemed to be that the 98 per cent of the English-speaking world who wouldn't know a subjunctive were it (oote the construction) to tap them on the shoulder and ask them the time must lack imagination.

More sublimated social anxieties in Ip Dip Doo (Radio 2, Wednesday), in which Georgina Boyes confronted the myth that the modern child has abandoned old-fashiooed playground games in favour of computer games. In fact, the programme demonstrated that children's games are remark- demands consideration.

BBC gets more complaints able for their longevity - the most telling example being a clapping game which amalga mated a popular song of the 1940s with the old favourite "It's raining, it's pouring, the old man's snoring": this must have been passed down through at least 10 generations of primary school children. Boyes suggested that this is the equivalent of an adult folk-song surviving since the early 18th century.

Of course, folk-songs don't survive this long, largely because they are sung by peoplc with irritating oasal voices; and a promising programme was ruined by the inclusion of several examples of this. These have roughly the effect on me that split infinitives have on other people, but doo't run away with the idea that this is some sort of sublimation. Sometimes hatred can be pure.

The news that Martin Bell's series "The Truth Is Our Currency" was being postponed came too late to stop it being reviewed here last week. Apologies for any confusion; and snooks cocked at the BBC for withdrawing a programme about bias in the news at the very moment when the issue most

### Turn off, retune, drop out

hich of these quiz shows offers the most depressing proof that Pearson TV had oo right to be let anywhere near the last terrestrial wavelength? Is it (a) 100 % (C5, every weekday); (b) Whittle (C5, every weekday); (c) This and Fibs (C5, Wed); or (d) Bring Me the Head of Light Entertainment (C5, Thur)? Answer: the above.

souls, Busty Madame, Mature

and Proud Of It - well, Russell

Davies - Offers Relief. In the

comfort of his boudoir, you

can air all those thoughts you

This is probably unfair, both to Davies, who is for the most

part a wise and tolerant com-

mentator on language, and to

his listeners, many of whom oo

doubt have a perfectly healthy,

open attitude to grammar,

happy to answer their children's

questions about gerunds, to

parse freely and frankly in pub-

lic. But I've harboured a deep

suspicion of the Word of Mouth

andience ever since the time, a

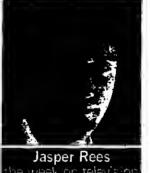
couple of years back, that they

voted Enoch Powell the best liv-

never dared utter.

Channel 5 has been working hard all week to tell jokes against itself before anyone else can. "Everything to play for," said our host Tony Slattery at the end of Tibs and Fibs, a dismally smutty medical quiz show. "In fact, nothing to play for, because of the budget." 100% even makes a virtue of the precarious state of the mats that on any other terreschannel's finances, dispensing with the services (and salary) of a host altogether. Which gives it slightly more personality than Whittle, bosted by Tim Vine.

Bring Me the Head of Light Entertainment enshrines another joke against the channel in a programme title, as the head of light cotertainment basically heads the whole channel. You can ignore the inau-gural night, which misleadingly suggested that there is a budget for drama. Even if there were, the rigid scheduling structure that is the channel's unique selling point would find no Exclusive! strands her oo a



place for Beyond Fear (Sun) on a normal night. Otherwise the movie would have to go, or the gardening game show, the travel show, the property show and all the other criminally unimaginative magazine fortrial channel would run, out of harm's way, in mid-afternoon. The exclamation mark at

the end of Hospital! (Sun) announced a debt to the school of surreal slapstick patented by the Airplane! people. So where does this leave Exclusive! (every weekday)? Rather than signalling even the merest iota of irony, the punctuation in this case betrays a fierce desperation to be noticed. In a luckier life, its host Julia Bradbury would have a sporting chance of finding an endience. But

deserted set and forces ber to hand out miserly gobbets of secood-hand showbiz tittletattle. Still, it's better than the fact that Channel 5 has access to almost no significant sporting events. For its first ooting it was reduced to interviewing football fans out oo location, and then in the studio, because the good thing about football fans is that you don't have to pay them.

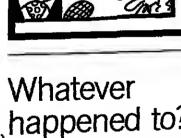
comes the clunkily titled Five News Including First on Five (every weekday). The programme's editor, we read, has warned his staff that they will get a bad reception, which has the viewers are getting bad reception too. The one thing you can say about Five News is that money has visibly been spent. Most of Channel 5's programmes limp so badly that they are beneath spoof, but here, at least, an effort has been made to create a style, albeit one that by some freakish reordering of the rota has already been spoofed by The Day Today and Brass Eye.

Into this sea of mediocrity

It's a depressing indictment of our national mindset that Kirsty Young, because beautiful and blonde, has been prejudged as intellectually incapable. She has perhaps

overcompensated, stripping away whatever charm she may possess to buttonhole the camera like someone with no sense Turnstyle (Sun), a sports of humour who wants to talk report show that suffers from politics at a party. The other saving grace of Channel 5 is The Jack Docherty Show (Sun, and every weekday). Viewers may have trouble downsizing their expectations for a show that can't be an event every night, or even any night, but Docherty has hit the track at pace and looks weirdly close to being a natural.

The in-joke oo his show came in an item called "The Re-Tuners", a reference to the fact that by a random stroke of good luck half the nation has been deprived of adequate anice symmetry to it, given that reception to Channel 5's squalid float-past of derivative junk. The mood of your reviewer improved perceptibly oo about Tuesday evening, wheo his slightly wavy picture suddenly blew up into a snowstorm. Even as they continue to send re-tuners out to reclaim the televisioo sets that are rejecting its material, Channel 5 are training up an army of declenchers charged with reconfiguring the buttocks of the few hundred thousand viewers who have pressed the "5" button by mistake. There is more padding on this station than all the cells in Broadmoor. Get better, or get off.



DAMIEN, DO YOU

ARTISTS?

FIND THAT YOU OFTEN

SOMETIMES.

TAKE FROM OTHER

New voice: The GLC (Greater London Council) is born in April 1964, with WG Fiske as its first leader, replacing the London County Council, covering the same essential services but a larger area: 610 sq miles

Old conflicts: Power alternating between Conser-

majority in 1981. This brings London a new head in Ken Livingstone who earns himself the nickname "Red Ken" with some flamboyant decisions, including one to spend £44,000 on a charter for gay and lesbian rights. Propaganda of his own keeps his popularity high among Londoners, including a huge hotair ballooo bearing the words "Working for

trolled Londoo Boroughs Association speaks out in favour of abolition. The final straw comes when banners are draped outside County Hall proclaiming the daily unemployment total. In 1986, the council is abolished.

AA Roadwatch

to an Association of London Authorioes survey in 1993, four out of five Londoners want the GLC back. In 1996, Labour unveils plans for a city mayor and new authority.

Next step? Labour's election manifesto pledges a New deal: A non-elected quango (the LPAC), 33 directly elected London authority. Will London get local councils and Whitehall take over. According one? Onlytime will tell. James Aufenast

# happened to?

General Summary and Outlook:

Scotland will start cloudy and blustery with

bursts of rain and drizzie, especially in the north, although it will be quite mild with

brighter spells in sheltered eastern spots.

This afternoon the south will have some rain

but northern counties will turn brighter and

colder with sunny spells and wintry showers.

Meanwhile Northern Ireland, northern Eng-

land and north Wales will be cloudy and

blowy with patchy light rain, but the rest of

THAT I GO TO ANOTHER ARTISTS DEA . FOR ME IT'S WHAT'S AROUND THEN WALK

AWAY WITH UP TO NEW CONCEPT SOMETHING NEW AND TECHNIQUES.

UP TO NEW CONCEPTS

varive and Labour with Labour finally gaining a London". Lord Bowness, chairman of the Tory-con-

WORLD WEATHER YESTERDAY, MIDDAY (GMT); c,cloudy, (bith fg,log, he,heaty, m,mist, c,rain; an,mow; s,surmy, th,thurder "previous tey's figure at local time."

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Forland and Wales should be mostly dry with a little warm sunshine in the east. Tomorrow, drizzle in southern counties of England and Wales should soon die out to leave most of the UK fine and bright with sunny spells, although the odd wintry shower is likely in north-east Scotland. Despite the sunshine and light winds there will be a chill in the air and a widespread ground frost after dark. The first half of next week will be mostly fine and warm, but weak fronts will

bring cloud and drizzle to western Scotland. Immetch C 8 46
Index of Scilly 1/2 11 52
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Lincoln n/a
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7:52pm to 6:32mm 7:50pm to 6:35am 7:51pm to 6:28am 7:49pm to 6:31am 7:53pm to 6:28am 7:52pm to 6:31am 7-53pm to 6-23am 7:51pm to 5:26am 8:05pm to 6:32am

8:03pm to 6:35am

SO<sub>2</sub> Good Good Good Good Good Good Good

Outlook for Today
London Good
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AM HT PM HT 0.20 63 13.01 6.8 10.22 9.2 22.51 9.3 616125 184613.0 Hall (Albert Dock) 5,35 7.2 17.37 7.5 1130 33 - -Den Lacefraire 10.40 4.0 23.17 3.9

both sides of the river. at Pive Weys Corner, with no acces to or from the Al Great North Way. Bristol, M5 J18-19. Contraflow in operation across the Avonmouth Bridge with a 50mpb speed limit. Regular rush-bour delays. West Midlands, M6 J6. Long-term

roadworks. The slip road from Salford Chas to the Min North is closed. Diversions via Lichfield Road (A5127). Mil West Yorkshire. J47 Leeds

(M621/A653 Holbeck), long-term readworks with speed limits down to 30mph. Delays on the M1, M621 and Dewsbury Road, City of Edinburgh, MSJ2. Major road-

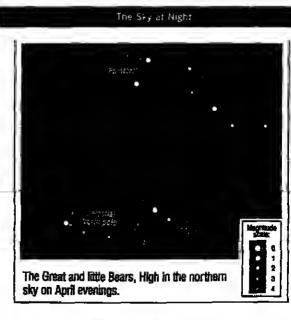
roundaboot at J2 (Newbridge Spur M9). Delays possible. Lincolnshire, A 18. Briggate Lodge Roundsbort, near Broughton, Roadworks are in place. Delays possible.

works, with lane closures on the

Out and about with AA Road-watch call 6336 401 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calla changed at 39p per min (chaop rate) 49p per min (All other times) inc VAI.

Sun rises 6:27am Sun sets 7:40pm

New moon: April 7



For such a well-known constellation, the Little Bear - Ursa Minor - is curiously dim and ill-defined. Its fame hangs largely on its brightest star, the Pole Star or Polaris. By a chance of nature, Polaris lies very close to the oorth pole of the sky, the point around which the dome of the sky appears to turn because of the rotation of the Earth. There is no equivalent star to mark the south celestial pole. Polaris is readily found with the help of the so-called "Pointers" in the Plough.

Kochab is of similar brilliancy but the 5th magnitude star at the opposite corner of the "square" is a challeoge for urban sky watchers. Ursa Minor is well-placed in spring and summer evenings. New Moon early this coming week gives the potential for dark skies and the chance to spot more difficult constellations like the Little Bear.

Jacqueline Mitton

### TODAY'S TELEVISION

Gerard Gilbert recommends The Call of the Sea Sat 8.10pm BBC2 The Ice House Sat, Sun 9pm BBC1

ho needs another murder mystery? Indeed, my heart sank when, shortly into The Ice House (Sat, Sun more to The Ice House than that, though. Although form. Actually she doesn't, and gives the sort of relaxed pergence here, however, is that The Ice House adaptation (directed by Cracker and Barbara Vine specialist Tim territory. The difference here, however, is that The Ice House is based on a novel by Minette Walters, whose The Sculptress propelled Pauline Quirke out of Chingford sitcomland and into Bafta contention, and that the investigating officer is played by Corin Redgrave, who, without seeming to, can act David Jason and John Thaw into a cocked hat.

Redgrave is joined by Daniel Craig (widely used now, but still most famous for his Geordie in Our Friends in the North), Kitty Aldridge, Frances Barber and Penny Downie - the latter trio suspected by villagers of being a lesbian coven. When a half-eaten corpse turns up on the grounds of their estate, Redgrave's chief inspector thinks he has the solution to an

well) does it with a light, dark touch. Where the Heart Is (TTV Sun) is an altogether more formulaic affair (think Peak Practice; think Dangerfield; above all, think Heartheat) and will undoubtedly garner more viewers than any other drama this weekend. This new six-parter stars earthmother Paur Ferris (Ma Larkin in The Davling Buds of May) and Sarah Lancashire (former Rovers Return barmaid Raquel) as two Yorkshire district nurses. There's a death and a birth before the first commercial break, but not much to stop you slipping down the back of your sofa in a sort of comfortable torpor. The main point of interest, for me, was to see whether

John Major and Tony Blair may or may not be doing a Presidential-style TV debate this side of the election (one does hope not), but the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, and would-be Chancellors, Gordon Brown and Malcolm Bruce, parade them-selves in front of Peter Jay and an invited audience in The Debate for a Chancellor (Sun BBC2). If we're talking winners and losers here, then the wittily blokish Clarke looks a hot favourite; someone should tell Brown to stop dropping his bottom lip a millisecond after the end of each sentence. Most pugilistic; it only frightens the voters.

If you want truly compelling talking heads, however, then tune

into this week's The Call of the Sea (Sat BBC?), in which old sailors recall three of the 50 (yes, 50) or so mutanes which took place in the Royal Navy in the first half of this century. One recalls trying to kill the incompetent I hast Lieutenant on his minesweeper before he got the crew killed; another recalls his three months of hard labour on New Guinea after a muting on the standard the transfer is the transfer in the century. board the troopship HMS Lothian. "It wasn't a bad life... far better than on board that bloody ship."

In Macbeth on the Estate (Sat BBC2), 130 people from Birm-

ingham's Ladywood Estate are joined by some of Britain's most promising young actors for a contemporary urban-blight rendition of the Scottish Play. The concrete walkways and barren open spaces of Ladywood make rather a good setting, but you feel documentary-maker Penny Woolcock is more interested in these than a totally comprehensible interpretation of the Bank

#### BBC 1

7.00 Children's BBC: Harry and the Hendersons. 7.25 News, Weather. 7.30 Felix the Cat. 7.45 Phantom 2040. 8.10 The Real Adventures of lonny Quest. 8.35 The Flintstones. 9.00 Live and Kicking. Photographer Terry O'Neill in the hot seat, and Gaby Roslin has a new show to plug (S) (14584330).

12.12 Weather (4589679). 12.15 Grandstand: The Prologue. Des Lynam stans the Grand National build-up from Aintree (3552196). 12.25 Football Focus (9696143). 12.50 Did You Know? Twenty things you didn't know about the National (97578698). 1.00 News (70144132). 1.10 Peter O'Sullevan's National Scrapbook (22740211). 1.20 Parade of Past Winners. Aldaniti leads a parade of (living, obviously) former winners (22746495). 1.30 Guide to the Grand National. Trainers and pundits give their tips as the rest of the race card is played out, including the 1.45, 2.20 and 2.55 races. (42097698). 3.05 Grand National Build-Up (9479037). 3.45 The Grand National. Commentary by Peter O'Sullevan, Jim McGrath and John Hamner (6334360). 4.10 The Re-run (6994650), 4.40 Final

Score (2795921). 5.20 News, Weather (7) (8192495). 5.30 Local News, Weather (440037). 5.35 Tom and Jerry Triple Bill (241327). 5.45 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring's platoon masquerade as traitors to test the town's reaction to the threat of invasion (R)(T) (115872).

6.15 The New Adventures of Superman (S)(T) (706476). 7.00 Whatever You Want. See Preview,

above (S) (585230). 7.50 The National Lottery Live, Gaby Roslin escorts the winner of Whatever You Want (see above) to fulfil their ambition to start tonight's draw, Music comes from

saxophonist Kenny G (S) (694178). 8.10 Crime Traveller, Holly takes Slade to task for his increasing dependency on the Time Machine (S) (622921). 9.00 The Ice House. 1/2. See Preview,

above (S)(T) (6429785). 10.25 News, Weather (7) (889563). 10.55 Match of the Day. Nottingham Forest v Southampton is the main event. Plus, the Goal of the Month competition (S) (8033476). 12.05 Grand National, Julian Wilson presents a full rerun of the 150th

Grand National (S) (5567790). 12.30 Top of the Pops (S)(T) (84167). 1.00 The Spring (John D Patterson 1989 US). Two archaeologists attempt to discover the whereabouts of the mythical fountain of youth, hotly and inevitably pursued by a greedy industrialist wanting to exploit the fountain's magical powers. The wonderfully named Dack Rambo leads the cast of this feeble and derivative fantasy action movie (204186).

2.40 Weather (6250001). To 2.45am.

#### BBC 2

6.20 Open University: Christopher Plantin, Polyglot Printer of Antwerp (2531501). 6.45 Energy (1776178), 7.10 Reading the Landscape (1226940), 8,00 Open Saturday (27139501). Milestones in Science and Engineering.

Television (3563785). 10.50 Cash Congo Maisie (Henry Potter 1940 US). Second in what became a long-running series featuring the adventures of Ann Sothem's Brooklyn chorus girl. In this one, she finds herself caught up in an African tribal revolt (T) (1494619).

12.00 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (Alfred Werker 1938 US). Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce investigate plot to steal the Crown Jewels. George Zucco plays Morianty (1350940).

1.20 AM Mutiny on the Bounty (Frank Lloyd 1935 US). Still the best of the

three Bounty movies, thanks to Charles Laughton's frightening portrayal of Captain Bligh. Clark Gable also works well as Fletcher Christian (34294698). 3.30 MIRR Mogambo (John Ford 1953 US).

Clark Gable again, this time as a big-game hunter in Africa in this Technicolo game hunter in Africa in this lechnicolor remake of Red Dust, which he'd starred in 21 years before. Ava Gardner and Grace Kelly are entertaining as they squabble over Gable, but director John Ford seems more interested in the local wildlife (510308).

5.25 The Saint, Roger Moore's 1960s adventurer finds himself organising a revolution (9473679).

revolution (94/36/9).
6.15 Travels with Pewner. Continuing the series exploring six English counties, Inspired by Nikolaus Pewsner's architectural guide The 8uildings of England. This week, Lucinda Lambton does County Durham (S)(T) (546921).
7.05 Newsmight New for the address of the series of th

7.05 Newsnight. New four-part "sideways look" (which is probably the best way to view it) at the current general election.

Jeremy Paxman teams up with Harry
Enfield to trawi the campaign for
humorous angles. Good luck (295105).
8.05 Close Up. Mary Whitehouse's favourite
film is a silent comedy (586143).
8.10 Call of the Sea. See Preview, above

(914414). 8.50 Trade Secrets (R)(S) (468308). 9.00 The Big One with Michael Moore.

Moore, presenter of the hugely enjoyable TV Nation, takes a humorous look at America as it stumbles towards the start of the new millennium. The film, being edited up to transmission, follows him through the heartland of America on a 50-day promotional tour for his new book, Downsize This: Random Threats from an Unarmed American (9056). 10.30 Performance: Macbeth on the Estate. See Preview, above (S)(1) (4472327).

11.55 EIE Wings of Fame (Otakar Votocek 1990 Neth). Film star Peter O'Toole is shot dead by aggrieved young writer accident. The pair are reunited in an afterlife hotel full of other dead celebrities (Einstein, the kidnapped Lindbergh child, Lassie...), all relying on the survival of their fame among the living for their well-being in Ilmbo. A comment on the nature of fame, then, more weird than acute (593698).

1.40 Later with Jools Holland. Manic Street Preachers, a rare solo set from Pete Townshend and indie trio Ben Folds Five (R) (3642902), To 2.50am.

#### ITV/Carlton

6.00 GMTV: 6.00 News. 6.10 Professor Bubble. 6.30 Bananas in Pyjamas. 6.50 Bug Alert! 7.15 The Wuzzles. 7.45 Disney's Wake Up in tha Wild Room. 8.55 Power Rangers Zeo. 9.25 Scratchy and Co (S) (91622582). 11.30 The Chart Show (S) (68259). 12.30 Love Bites (26105).

1.00 News, Weather (7) (22755143). 1.05 London Weekend Today (22754414). 1.10 Champions' League Special. Preview of Manchester United's match against Borussia Dortmund (70944853).

1.40 Sturitmasters (14335245). 2.10 SIMI Sands of the Desert (John Paddy 2.10 GIMM Sands of the Desert (John Paddy Carstairs 1960 UK). Charlie Drake scouts the Sahara for new holiday spots in studio-bound slapstick (233747).

3.45 SeaGuest DSV (3)(1) (375327).

4.45 News, Sport, Weather (7) (1878563).

5.05 London Weekend Tonight (6293650).

5.20 The Heat is On (4786817).

5.45 Sabrina, the Teerage Witch (799389). 6.10 Early Edition (S/T) (291969). 7.05 You Bet! With Clare Buckfield, Dale Winton and Roland Rivron (222259).

#### Channel 4

6.00 Terrytoons (65191*0*5). 6.10 Sesame Street (R) (8431921), 7.05 The Adventures of Soric the Hedgehog

(S) (8234227). 7.35 Dumb and Dumber (R) (4423872). 7.35 Distributed and Univer (\*7) (442,3672). 8.00 Transworld Sport (21,495). 9.00 Morning Line (S) (81292). 10.00 Gazzetta Football Italia (73698). 11.00 NBA 24/7. Basketball. LA Lakers take

on Seattle Supersonics (S) (53834). 12.00 Rawhide (36582). 1.00 MAN Anne of the Indies (Jacques

Tourneur 1951 US). Jolly costume yarn with Jean Peters as a female pirate queen – and Louis Jourdan as the French naval officer blackmailed by the British into capturing her (T) (6600037). 2.25 Dog Brain. Canadian animation about a

sleeping guard dog (37443969). UKQ. Lovely Technicolor Korda brothers vehicle for Sabu as an Indian prince helping the British cavalry in turn-of-thecentury India (36081308).



So I Married an Axe Murderer 10.05pm ITV Mike Myers has a few sleepless nights with serial bride Nancy Travis

8.05 Stars in Their Eyes. Former Spandau Ballet frontman Tony Hadley and soul singer Phyllis Nelson impersonated by a Cardiff postal worker and an Edgbaston

hospital employee (S)(7) (636124), 8.50 News, Weather, Lottery Result (7) (110259). 9.05 An Audience with Alf Gamett. Warren Mitchell, in his most famous guise, fields questions from Julia McKenzie, Peter hitton, Gloria Hunniford and Patsy Palmer and others. Now that's what they call a celebrity C-List (581056).

10.05 FILES So I Married an Axe Murderer

(Thomas Schlamme 1993 US). Boisterous, unsubtle and ficklish comedy in which Mike Myers (one half of the Wayne's World duo) plays a beat poet who falls in love with a gold-digging serial bride, Nancy Travis. The always delightful Alan Arkin co-stars as a police chief (S)(T) (463563). 11.50 in Bed with Medinner (S) (853921).

12.20 The Servants of Twilight (Jeffrey Obrow 1992 US). Belinda Bauer protects her young son from religious fanatics (217964).

2.05 Tropical Heat (R)(S) (9251326). 2.55 E! News Review (6071322). 3.45 Club Nation (R)(S) (2958254). 4.40 ITV Sport Classics (R) (97239728). 5.05 Coach (S) (7774457). To 5.30am.

4.15 Flying Me Crazy. Repeat Short Stories film about a woman's attempt to win the

British National Aerobatics Championships (R)(T) (110327). 4.45 The Pink Parither (1876105). 5.05 Brookside Omnibus (R)(S) (8729292). 6.30 Right to Reply (S)(T) (766). 7.00 A Week in Politics (S) (4853).

8.00 MBM From Here to Eternity (Fred Zimmernann 1954 US). Showing in tribute to the director, who died recently, this is Zinnemann's fine, intelligent version of James Jones's anti-militaristic novel about army life in Hawaii in the run up to Pearl Harbor, With Frank Sinatra, Montgomery Clift and, famously embracing the surf, Burt Lancaster and Deborah Kerr (26177740). 10,10 Eurotrash (R)(S) (374414).

10.45 Homicide: Life on the Street (526540) 11.40 Hill Street Blues (R)(T) (483056). 12.40 Paperhouse (Bernard Rose 1988 UK). Very imaginative and beautifully designed horror fantasy about a bedridden girl who draws an imaginary friend - and then meets him through her

dreams (T) (280070). 2.20 The Best of Aykroyd, Belushi and Chase (R) (6972051). 3.30 Flava (R) (45902). To 4.00am.

#### **Channel 5**

6.00 Dappledown Farm (5772853). 6.30 Attractions (R)(S) (6015698). 7.00 5 News Early (S) (2185143). 7.30 Havakazoo (2164650).

8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (2799679). 8.30 Land of the Lost (2781650). 9.00 Beverly Hills 90210 (16618389). 10.50 Mag Upfront (R)(S) (85286360). 11.00 Turnstyle. Gall McKenna and Dominik

Diamond preview the weekend's sporting action (S) (37248056). 12.50 Lunchtime News (S) (11235853). 1.00 The Mag. Josie D'Arby introduces the afternoon entertainment slot for young people (S) (95008105). 3,15 Sunset Beach Omnibus. Nearly three

hours with the southern Californian beach burns? You'd have to be very sad (13738940). 6.00 5 News and Sport (9931414).

6.05 Hercules. More adventure with the half-man, half-god. When Hera slays. Hercules's family, he seeks vengeance. until he is moved to rescue a helpless village from a demonic snakewoman. Sounds unmissable (S) (3550853). 6.55 Night Fever, Sugas hosts the karaoke

entertainment show in which male celebrities take on their female counterparts. This week's guests include Kathy Lloyd, Esther McVey, Toyah Wilcox, Mark Curry and Jamie Theakston (3067747).

7.55 5 News and Sport (S) (7344259). 8.10 IAG. Adventure series about a navy lawyer who travels around the world investigating military cases. A man with a grudge against the government blackmails them into handing over \$40 million in gold bullion (3823124).

9.00 EIEE The Big Man (David Leland 1990

UK). Thoroughly superior fight movie, adapted by Don MacPherson out of William McIlvanney's novel, in which Liam Neeson agrees to a one-off bare-knuckle fight in a Glasgow lorded over by crime boss Ian Bannen, Joanne Whalley-Kilmer (as Neeson's wife) and Billy Connolly co-star (S)(T)

(808772**30**) 11.05 The Blob (Irwin S Yeaworth 1958 US). Thankfully not the self-conscious 1988 remake, but the original Cold War sci-fi with teen punk Steve McQueen saving his small town from an amorphous alien (5166563).

12.40 Number One (Tom Gries 1969 US). American football quarter-back Chalton Heston fights off the fading of his career with the bottle, and his marriage to Jessica Walter begins to crack. Fairly risible drama (Heston is all wrong for the part), co-starring Bruce Dem and Diana Muldaur (4220457). 2.30 EIEM Night of Courage (Elliot

verstein 1986 US). A teache discovers the facts behind the murder of one of his students when he confronts a stubborn old man who is hounded by the press after denying the victim refuge In his home. No stars (6834693). 4.10 Night Stand. Spoof talk show hosted by

Dick Dietrick (33912148). 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (6868457). 5.30 Wideworld, Russell Grant documents society for future generations. Frightening (5746438). To 6.00am.

### ITV/Regions

ARGLA
As London escapt: 12.30pm Movies, Garnis and Videos (26105): 1.05 Angla: News and Wrother (227544): 3. 1.40 World of Wonder (237646): 2.05 Baywatch (1463143): 3.00 Film: Carry On Her. ry (97104056): 5.05 Angla: News, Sport and Weather (6293650): 11.50 Film: Downstown (521853): 1.35 Film: The Long Arm\* (7595709): 2.50 Film: Shanghai Joe (499273): 4.30 - 5.30mg Funly Bunker (17963).

CENTRAL

As Landon except: 12.30pm Premiere (\*670%), 1.05
Central News and Weather (\*72754414) 1.40
Mones, Garnes and Vatros (5082774) 2.15 File:
Denney's The Biscust Eater (237028) 3.50 reaGues
St DSV (6812786), 5.05 Central News and Weather (8182018), 5.10 Central Match - Goals Erro (5373056), 3.45 Jobhnder (669637), 5.20 - 5.30am
Assan Eve (2670235).

Asian Eye (2670235).

NTV WRLES
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Carries and Videos (26105). 1.05 HTV Wales, News and Weather (22754414). 1.40 Eruption' The Making of Dante's Peak (14335245). 2.10 Sturmasters (7853230). 3.00 Airosi (9001766). 3.55 Edynagti (3911211). 5.05 HTV Wales News and Sports Kesults (6293650). 11.50 Film: Downtown 15818531. 1.35 Film: The Long Arm\* (7595702). 2.50 Film: Shanghai Joe (499273). 4.30 - 5.30am Funk, Buriley (17964).

HIT WEST As HTV Wales except: 1.05pm HTV Wast News are Westher (2275-44-4), 1.10 Sportsweek (6) 80672: 1.45 UEFA Champions Laugus Special (807.759), 2.15 Box Office America (47.35/0056) 2.25 America (7849037), 3.20 Baywatch (6) 703/89, 4.10 Inc Let (8259327), 5.05 - 5.20pm HTV West News, Sports Results and Weather (6093650).

MERIDIAN As London except: 12,30pm Movies, Games and Videos (26105). 1,05 Meridian News and Wenther (227544)14,140 A406 (14335245). 2,10 Bayusatch (1461056), 3,05 Film: Corry On Heiry 91837476), 5.05 Meridian News and Westler (6293650), 11.50 Film; Downtown (581853), 1.35 Film; The Long Arm\* (7595709), 2.50 Film; Shanghal Joe (499273), 4.30 · 5.30am Firnky Bunker (17964).

WESTCOUNTRY WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 12.30pm Mones, Garnes and Videos (26:05), 1,05 Westcountry News (22754414), 1,40 Planet Rock Probles (14335245) 2,10 Stuntmasters (29.88747), 2,50 Airwelf (8299143), 3,50 seaQuest DSV [6812785], 5,05 Westcountry News (6793650), 11,50 Film: Downtown (581853), 1,35 Film: The Long Arms (7595709), 2,50 Film: Shanghai toe (499273), 4,30 - 5,30 am Funkly Bunker (17964), webscupe.

YORKHIRE
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Vedeos (26105). 1.05 Calendar News and Weather (22754414). 1.40 Film: The Dam Busters" (89604230), 3.50 Baywatch (6812785) 5.05 Caredar News and Weather (8182068). 5.10 Scoreline (5373056), 11.50 Film: Somebody Has to Shoot the Picture (572105). 1.40 In Bed with Medimer (85716560676). 2.10 Film: The Mulachers' (BST) (6509070), 2,10 Filter The H-Jackers (2211051), 3,25 Filmy Business (46651964), 3,55 Collins and Macone's Movie Chub (2584,364), 4,25 Murde, 375 Whote (4336070), 5,15 - 5,30am Sound Bites (7184761).

CHANNEL 3 RORTH EAST As Yorkshire except: 1.05pm North East News and Weather (22754-1741, 5.05 North East News and Weather (8182018). 5.10 · 5.20pm Full Time

S4C As C4 except: 10.00am Hangui with Mr Cooper (4/50)1, 10.30 The Three Storges (5552476), 10.50 Fresh Pop (35460/8), 12,00 Film: Gyby (265/6259), 2.40 Wax elog Yreks (5804308), 2.55 Film: Evil under the Sun (8/1995673), 6.30 Love Life (760, 7.00 Newyddon a Chwaracon (198582), 7.15 Nason Fw Chofie: To Opera Breishard, Covent Ga-chen (6527476). 8.20 Hel Straeon (763105). 8.50 Pongeli (318476). 9.25 Roverdance - The New Show 89-283-1). 10.40 Homicode - Life on the Sect (517292). 11.40 Fortean TV (854650). 12.10 Cour-

### Radio

Radio 2

(97.5-99.8Mitz FM) 6.00am Dave Pearce 9.30 Mark Goodier 12.30 Claire Sturgess 3.30 Trevor Nelson 6.30 Danny Rampling – Lovegroove Dance Par-ty 9.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 The Radio 1 Reggae Dancehall Nite 2.00 Essential Mics Sven Vath 4.00-6.00am Annie Nightingale

68-90 2Mg FIG 6.00cm Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright 1.00 The Monkhouse Archive 1.30 The News Huddlines 2.00 Judi Spiers 4.00 Alan Freeman 5.30 Kenny Rogers in Concert 6.30 The Story of the Eagles 7.30 Sounds of Swe-den 9.30 David Jacobs 10.00 Never Never Land 11.00 Bob Har-

Radio 3 90.2-92.4Mb Rith 6.55am Weather, News Headlines. 7.00 Record Review.

ris 1.00 Jon Briggs 4.00-7.00am

 No Bedood Review.
 9.00 Bullding a Library.
 10.15 Record Release.
 11.15 Reissues.
 12.00 Private Passions. Michael Berkeley talks to writer and philosopher Roger Scruton.
 1.00 News; I Was There. The 90-year-old tenor Huster Compard. year-old tenor Hugues Cuenod recalls his triendship with

Stravinsky.

1.20 Vintage Years. Dame Janet
Baker talks to Brian Kay about
her remarkable career, from first
successes in Yorkshire to the responsibilities of being an International star. Including songs
by Vaughan Williams, Schubert
and Wagner, and arias by Bach,
Ghock and Handel. (R) Gluck and Handet, (R) Gruck and Handel. (R)
3.20 Vinit and Piano. Antje Wei-thaso (vlolin), Michael Gussek (piano). Debussy: Violin Sonata. Brahms: Violin Sonata in 0 mi-nor, Op 108.

4.00 The Secrets of Orchestration 4,00 The Secrets of Octoberation.

Michael Officer and George Benjamin take an in-depth look at Stravinsky's orchestration.

5.00 Jazz Record Requests.

5.45 Music Metters.

6.30 Music from the Austrian Courts.

Penny Gora introduces.

Courts. Penny Gore Introduces the first of two programmes in which Trio Sometrie perform music by Schmelser, Bloer, William Young and Muffat. (R) 7.00 Live from the Met. Faust. Gounod's version of the story of a scholar who sells his soul to the Devil. Sung in French. With Renee Fleming, soprano

#### Choice



A good day for Nobel Prize laureates: Wole Soyinka, recently exiled from Nigeria, imagines an ideal state in **Utopia and Other Destinations** (6.50pm R4); and Seamus Heaney joins Ted Hughes (left): to kick off a new run of Stanza on Stage (11.30pm R4); reading from their new anthology, The School Bag.

(Marguerite), Jane Bunnell, mezzo (Siebel), Diane Elias, mezzo (Marthe), Richard Leech, tenor (Faust), Samuel Ramey, bass | Mephistophela Chorus and Orchestra of the Metropolitan Opera/Julius Rudel. Acts 1 and 2.

Rudel: Act 3 and 2.
8.25 Turkey Overtures.
8.45 Faust, Act 3.
9.40 The Met Opera Quiz.
10.05 Faust, Acts 4 and 5.
11.10 Between the Ears.
11.50 New Perspectives. To mark the centenary of the publication of A Shropshire Lad, saxophon-ist John Williams asked John Dankworth, Patrick Gowers, An drea Vicari and Olck Walter to join him in composing five set-tings of Housman poems, to be performed by singer Jacquil Dankworth and the 12-piece en-

Radio 4

1.55 Shopping Forecas 2.00 News; Any Answers?
2.30 Saturday Playhouse: A Quick Killing in the City. An adoption, a young girl, a merchant bank, multi-million-pound deals, and a

semble New Perspectives. 1.50-7.00am Through the Night. Radio 4
92.494 6Mitz Rk. 198/dz LW
6.00am News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.50 Prayer for the Day.
6.55 Weather.
7.00 Today.
8.58 Weather.
9.00 News.
9.05 Sport on 4.
9.30 Breslaway.
10.00 News; Loose Ends.
11.00 News; Election Agenda.
11.30 The Americas File.
12.00 Money Box.
12.25 The News Quiz.
12.55 Weather.
1.00 News.

1.00 News.
1.10 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a topical discussion in Knighton. Powys, with Margaret Beckett, shadow Secretary of State for Trade and Industry: Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health; Archy Kritacoot, Liberal Denocrat Chief White and Deford Wester. 1.00 News. Chief Whip: and Dafydd Wigley, leader of Plaid Cymru.

web of lies and villainy are the threads of Ed Thomason's play, which is set in London at the time of Black Wednesday, Octo ber 1992. With Deborah Findlay and David Bark-Jones. (R) 4.00 News; Witnesses. In April 1915, the Allies carried out a landing on the Gallipoli perinsu-la. Kevin Toolis presents eyewitness accounts from one of the greatest military tragedies of our

time.
4.30 Sciance Now.
5.00 PM.
5.40 New York Diaries.
5.50 Shipping Forezast
5.55 Weather
6.00 Str O'Clock News
6.25 Week Ending.
6.50 Utopia and Other Destinations. Nobel Priza Isurreate and Nigerian exile Wole Soyinka offers his notion of an ideal world.
See Choice, above.

See Choice, above.
7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. Tim
Marlow investigates how
William Hogarith's everyday story of London folk in the 1730s changed the course of British art history, drama and opera in

history, drama and opera in eight short scenes.
7.50 On These Days.
3.50 Saturday Night Theatre: The Curlosity Cabinet. The second episode of Catherine Czerkawska's three-part story. Henrietta, in the eighteenth century, has been kidnapped and laken to Garve where she is surrounded by Gaels who neither speak her language or share her culture. In the present, Sophie and her son Ben travel to Garve and her son Ben travel to Garve on holiday. With John Buick. (R) 9-35 Classics with Key. 9.50 Ten to Ten. Una Kroll considers solitude.

9\_59 Weather 10.00 News 10.15 The Last September, By Elizabeth Bowen, With Arma Healy and Greg Wise. (R) 11.15 Memoirs of a Maladjusted

Teacher. (R)

11.30 Startza on Stage. Poet laure
até Ted Hughes and Seamus Heaney, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, read from their new anthology of favourite poetry, The School Bag, on the stage of the Royal Court Theatre Choice, above,

12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Story. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.50 Inshore Forecast. 5.51 Bells on Sunday. 5.55-6.00am Shipping Forecast.

Radio 4 LW 92.494.6Mtz FM, 198Mtz LM) No Variations

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(84, 90kiz lift)
(83, 90kiz lift)
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6.00am Morning Reports Classic FM U3SSIC FM
1600-101,9Mz Re
6.00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Countdown 12.00 Masters of Their Art
1.00 Alan Mann 3.00 Jane
Markham 6.00 Gardening Forum
7.00 Opera Guide 8.00 Evening
Concert 10.00 Classic Quiz 12.00
Sally Peterson 2.00 Evening Concert 4.00-6.00am Sally Peterson

Virgin Radio 111 girl Naturo
(1215, 1197-1250kiz MW 105.8kiz RI)
6.00am Lytin Parsons 10.00
Russ 'n' Jono's Greatest Hits 3.00
The Album Chart with Mark Forrest 6.00 Robin Banks 10.00
Janey Les Grace 2.00-6.00am
Howard Paarce

**World Service** 

1984b US
1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Letter from America 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 On Your Behalf 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Music Review 4.00 World News 4.05 World Business Review 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 From Our Own Correspondent 5.00 Newsdesk 5.30-6.00am Global Business

### Satellite/cable

381 1 7.00am Orson and Ofivia (10143). 7.30 Free Willy (99650). 8.00 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (83259). 9.00 Quantum Leap (36766). 10.00 Kung Fu - The Legend Continues (95834). 11.00 Legend Coloruses (93834, 11.00 Legends of the Hidden City (95785). 11.30 Sea Rescue (96414). 12.00 Wrestling (81056). 1.00 Wrestling (67476). 2.00 Star Trek (71766). 3.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (90230). 4.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (86037). 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (2655). 6.00 Kung Fu - The Legend Continues (70940). 7.00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (20969). 8.00 Coppers (7722). 8.30 Cops I (6389), 9.00 Cops II (75921). 9.30 The Serial Killers (82785). 10.00 Law and Order (12940).

(22341). 1.00 Dream On (95457). 1.30 Smouldering Lust (20326). 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix (4080772). 7.00pm The Best Moments of Bever Hills 90210 (1999018). 8.00 Melrose Place (1908766), 9.00 Pacific Drive (1911230), 10.00 Tales from The Crypt (8846679). 10.30 Tales from the Crypt (8855527). 11.30 Tales from the Crypt (8855527). 11.00 Stand and Deliver (8419259). 11.30 Stand and Deliver (7374495). 12.00-6.00am Hit Mix (8564964).

11.00 LA Law (96563), 12.00 The Movie Show (38490), 12.30 LAPD

MOVE CHANNEL 6.00am Mysterious Island (98209), 7.00 Robin Hood Junior (68940), 6.00 Stand-In\* (53360), 10.00 6.00 Stand-In\* (53360). 10.00 Lightning Jack (71679). 12.00 Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home (76211). 2.00 My Summer Story (82114). 4.00 3 Ninjas Kick Back (3679). 6.00 3 Ninjas Kick Back (3679). 6.00 3 Ninjas Kick Back (2698). 8.00 Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home (26143). 10.00 Schindler's List\* (30733766). 1.15 Nostradamus (659419). 3.15-6.00em Bad Boy Bubby (46423099). Say America

SAT MOVIES
6.20am The Ludies' Man
(86222766). 8.00 Howard: A New
Bread of Hero (62018). 10.00
Princess Caraboo (84182495). 11.45
The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking (52446037). 1.30 Walk Like
a Man (12582). 3.00 Howard: A
New Bend of Hero (056570). 5.00 New Breed of Hero (95679), 5.00 Princess Ceraboo (41940), 7.00 Get-ting Even With Dad (92747), 9.00 The Quick and the Dead (27872). 11.00 Alien Abduction: Intimate Secrets (31969). 12.30 Rooftops (358439). 2.05 Some Kind of Miracle (139254). 3.40-6.00am Garbo Talks (17359104).

6.00pm Annie Caldey\* (8705834); 8.00 The Crush (8717679), 10.00

Coming to America (9274389). 12.00 The Believers (2245269). 1.55 Lady in Cement (9359051). 3.30-5.35am How to Steel a Million

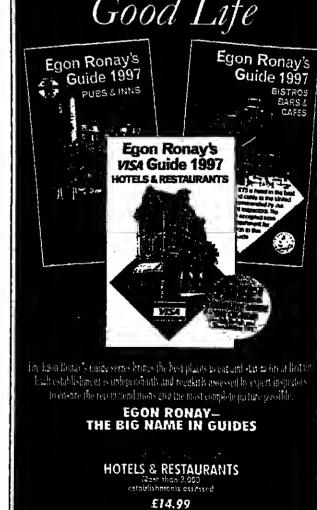
(86748439). SKY SPORTS 1 SKY SPORTS 1
7.00em World Sports (32389). 7.30
Aerobics (44124). 8.00 The Rugby
Club (46018). 8.30 Racing (45389).
9.00 Super League (28698). 11.00
Football: Chelsea v Arsenal (720766).
1.30 Sports Saturday (75018). 2.00
Rugby Union (25298853). 4.15
Sports Saturday Results (3687495).
5.30 One-Day ricket: South Africa v
Australia (1323834). 9.30 Cricket:
West Indias v Indias Fouth Test West Indies v India: Fourth Test (215330). 12.00 Davis Cup Tennis: Great Britain v Zimbabwa (51772). 2.00-4.00am Rugby Union (50457).

SXY SPORTS 2 7.00am Soccer AM (4126766). 11.00 Australian Rules Football (8724637). 1.00 Ice Hockey (872957). 1.00 for Hookey (2440196). 2.00 Davis Cup Termis: Great Britain v Zimbatowe (5223563). 7.00 Spanish Football (3688037). 9.30-1.00am Golf USA: Fresport McDermott Classic (3008476).

SICY SPORTS 3 12.00noon Survival of the Fittest (93755969). 12.30 Motor Sport (86080037). 2.00 Snooker (50763414). 5.00 World Sports (21525872), 5.30 Football; Chelses v Arsenal (46778921), 7.00 Snooke (53995747). 9.30 foe Hockey (86079921). 10.30 Salling (93732018). 11.00 Survival of the Fittest (22719105). 11.30-12.00midnight Cycling (25542292).

12.00midnight Cycling (255-22292).
LIVE TV
6.00am Pin Money 6.30 Fashion
7.00 Sport 7.30 A Game of Two
Scarves 8.00 Sharn Rock Quiz 8.30
Looking for Love 8.45 Pet Squad
9.00 Revolations 9.30 Fashion 10.00
Agony 10.30 Looking for Love 10.45
Pet Squad 11.00 Trial TV 11.30 Fate
and Fortune 12.00 Why Files? 12.30
Agony 1.00 Agony 1.15 Agony 1.30
Trial TV 2.00 Fashion 2.30 Agony
3.00 Fate and Fortune 3.30 Pin
Money 4.00 Looking for Love 4.30
Sharn Rock Quiz 5.00 Agony 5.30
Why Files? 6.00 Fashion 6.30 Sport
7.00 Pin Money 7.30 A Game of Two
Scarves 8.00 Bushido 8.30 Bushido
9.00 Handy Hunks; Sharm Rock Quiz
9.30 Eva's Severities Pop Stow
10.00 Topless Darts in Space; Sport 9.30 Eva's Seventies Pop Show 10.00 Topless Darts In Space; Sport 10.30 Stand-Up 11.00 Topless Darts In Space; Fate and Fortune 11.30 Sex 11.55 Erotica Evotica 12.30 Kiss TV 1.30 Shopping 2.00 Sex 2.30 Erotica Evotica 3.00 Stand-Up 3.30 Sex 4.00 Erotica Exotica 4.30 Pin Money 5.00 Sport 5.30-5.00am Shopping

## tryside Undercover (5662344). 4,45 • 5,40am The Beat Specials (9382419). The Independent Guides to the Good Life



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